

Mr Benn makes sweeping attack on EEC link

Britain would lose its status as a completely self-governing nation if it remained in the EEC, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, said yesterday. In a letter to his constituents he made a root-and-branch condemnation of

British membership of the Community. His attack was so strong that some MPs considered he might be preparing to resign if the Cabinet accepts the renegotiation terms. But his criticism is likely to anger ministers.

'End of self-governing Britain'

By Geoffrey Smith
Political Staff

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday launched such an uncompromising attack against Britain's continued membership of the EEC that some Labour MPs were speculating that he might be preparing the ground for his resignation if a majority of the Cabinet recommend acceptance of the renegotiated terms.

"Britain's continuing membership of the Community", he said in a letter to his constituents in Bristol, South-East, "would mean the end of Britain as a completely self-governing nation and the end of our democratically elected Parliament as the supreme law-making body in the United Kingdom."

Although he made it clear that he would accept the verdict of the British people, whatever it might be, his criticism of the Community was root and branch. There was no indication that he would favour anything in all the Government's renegotiation terms were met.

That was one of the respects in which the letter, which the Prime Minister did not see beforehand, conflicted with Mr Wilson's own position. In a BBC Radio 4 broadcast yesterday the Prime Minister reaffirmed that if the renegotiated terms met Labour's demands he would command them to the country.

The party conference will be listened to, of course, as it always is, he went on, but there was no suggestion that the conference would be given the right of veto so far as he was concerned.

The Prime Minister and other senior ministers will also have no doubt be angered by the timing of Mr Benn's statement, coming at such a delicate moment in the process of renegotiation and before the Cabinet has had the opportunity to consider the terms.

The Cabinet is proposing to review early in the new year the renegotiation process, the machinery for testing public opinion in due course, and the options available to ministers. It is now widely assumed that there will be a majority recommendation from the Cabinet in favour of the terms that are finally negotiated, with the minority being given the right to campaign according to their conscience. Mr Benn's friends insist that provided he is given this right he will not resign over the EEC.

But if Cabinet ministers are to take advantage of this right to differ without making it impossible for them to cooperate with each other afterwards, they will have to accept a certain restraint in the style and tone of their campaigning. Mr Benn's letter has raised doubts among some of his parliamentary colleagues whether he is prepared to make such a sacrifice.

It is noticeable that one of his main criticisms is directed towards the terms of the recent Paris summit communiqué, which was signed by the Prime Minister. "We must recognize," Mr Benn said, "that the European Community has now set itself the objective of developing a common foreign policy, a form of common nationality expressed through a common passport, a directly elected assembly and an economic and monetary union which, taken together, would in effect make the United Kingdom into one province of a western European state. The communiqué issued after the recent Paris summit makes these objectives clear."

Mr Benn went on to list five basic democratic rights which, he asserted, had been changed by Community membership. First, he declared that it "subjects us all to laws and taxes which your members of Parliament do not enact, such laws and taxes being enacted by authorities who do not directly elect and cannot dismiss through the ballot box."

Secondly, he maintained that "British membership means that Community laws and taxes cannot be changed or repealed by the British Parliament, but only by Community authorities not directly elected by the British people."

Thirdly, the EEC requires the British courts to uphold and enforce Community laws that have not been passed by Parliament, and that Parliament cannot change or repeal, even when such laws conflict with laws passed by Parliament, since

Community law overrides British law. His fourth objection was that British governments "impose duties and constraints upon themselves which are not derived from the British Parliament, and thus in discharging those duties and constraints are not accountable to Parliament or to the British people who elect them."

His fifth point was that British membership "by perpetually transferring sovereign legislative and financial powers to Community authorities, who are not directly elected by the British people, the perpetually insulates those authorities from direct control by the British electors, who cannot dismiss them and whose views, therefore, need carry no weight with the authorities whose grievances they are being compelled to remedy."

Mr Benn said he was not discussing himself to the general political or economic arguments for or against entry, "not commenting on the view that the advantages of membership might outweigh the loss of democratic rights, but I have described."

But he left no doubt where the balance lay in his judgement. "No one who votes in the ballot box should be in any doubt as to the effect British membership has had, and will increasingly continue to have, in removing the power the British people once enjoyed to govern themselves."

Labour reaction, page 2

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Competitors in the annual Thames Open Sea Angling Championship at Gravesend yesterday.

Freed Mr Stonehouse stays in hiding

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Dec. 29.

The whereabouts of Mr John Stonehouse remained a mystery tonight after his early-morning release from a detention centre in a Melbourne suburb.

The Labour MP was freed from custody at 2.30 am pending consideration of his request for permission to stay in Australia. He has to report to the Immigration Department in Melbourne once a week.

Tonight Mr J. A. Patterson, Mr Stonehouse's lawyer in Melbourne, said that for the present his client wished to keep his whereabouts secret. He was in Victoria but not in Melbourne.

Mrs Barbara Stonehouse, who flew from Britain to join her husband last Thursday night, had not been with him since his release, Mr Patterson said.

Asked if it could be inferred from this that their marriage was in danger, Mr Patterson replied: "Not at all. On the contrary, I thought from what I saw of them together in Melbourne that they were most affectionate towards one another."

"The fact is, the man has been under a great strain and it has affected him mentally. He is in need of time to rest and compose himself. He decided to leave for his secret destination without telling his wife on any advice. The fewer people who know about a matter like this, the better."

Mr Stonehouse had expected to be released from the Commonwealth Detention Centre in the suburb of Maribyrnong last Friday, and his wife had arrived at the centre prepared for a celebration. She brought a bottle of wine and roast chicken for a picnic on the centre's lawn, but gusty winds forced the couple to abandon that idea. Instead they dined in Mr Stonehouse's living quarters, a room with two iron beds, a dining annex and a shower.

IRA prisoners free 15 jail hostages

From Robert Fisk
Belfast

Fifteen prison officers held hostage by more than 100 Provisional IRA men in Portlaoise Prison in the Republic of Ireland were released last night after five hours of negotiations between Mr Patrick Kelly, the governor, and the two most senior IRA officers held there.

Mr Kelly listened while Mr Leo Martin, a Provisional staff officer, and a colleague listed 11 demands about prison conditions, food and the parole system, before an agreement was reached that the 15 officers should be released from barricaded cells in which they had been locked.

Irish soldiers and police had been preparing to storm the prison's E block after the Provisionals attacked and took the men hostage. Well over 600 troops in riot gear together with 200 members of the Garda Síochána surrounded the prison shortly before 6 pm, three hours after the IRA men surprised the warders during a riot.

The police in Portlaoise said last night that there was no violence during the release of the hostages, and that prison authorities now occupied every part of the jail. During the afternoon the Provisional IRA men had thrown stones, bottles and paint pots at officers.

Portlaoise, 60 miles south-west of Dublin, is the largest and most modern of the four main prisons in Ireland, but has a reputation for being the most violent of them. It was the scene of a major IRA attack on it with 12 deaths in 1973.

The investigation will have many aspects, involving not only the IRA and the police, but also the Department of Trade and Industry, the security services, the British and Australian governments, and the police forces of Britain, Australia, the United States, and Denmark.

Meanwhile, pressure for Mr Stonehouse's resignation from Parliament mounted in the Labour Party yesterday.

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300 killed in Pakistan earthquake

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, Dec. 29.

At least 300 people were killed in an earthquake which struck the high Karakoram range last night on Pakistan's frontier with China, it was officially reported here. Tonight bodies were still being dug out of the ruins of a village, 200 miles north-east of Lahore, which was destroyed by violent tremors which began just before sundown and continued into the night.

Huge boulders came bouncing down the mountainsides, crushing several people in their path.

Engineers of the Pakistan Army have recently completed work on the Karakoram highway, which passes through Patten on the mountainous route to the Chinese province of Szechwan, and it is feared that the earthquake may be among the last to be felt in the area.

Pakistan Army and civil authorities swung quickly into action, providing medical relief to Patten and flying the injured by helicopter to the nearest hospitals. The whole village population, numbering several thousands, has been left homeless in the freezing mountain cold. Attempts to bring in relief workers by road were hampered by landslides which blocked the Karakoram highway.

It is feared that some villages around the upper Indus valley have also suffered extensive damage but it will be some time before the full extent of the destruction is known. Officials said that an air survey late this afternoon indicated heavy damage in the village of Jesh, six miles away from Patten.

The year of oil
New York, Dec. 29. King Faisal of Saudi Arabia has been chosen "Man of the year 1974" by Time magazine, which cited the monarch's role in quadrupling the price of oil and his power to raise or lower oil prices.—Reuter.

Mr Wilson rules out pay freeze next year

By Our Political Staff

A wage freeze in the coming year was categorically ruled out by the Prime Minister yesterday. Questioned in the BBC radio programme, *The World This Weekend*, he declared that unemployment rather than wages would be the main enemy in 1975 would be a "very, very difficult year."

He explained his reluctance to have a wage freeze: "We had one once and it worked very well. You can see it once but you cannot do it for long because of the grievances, because of the complications, inequities and interferences you cannot really do it for two or three times in a democratic country. We are still paying the price of the last one."

Politicians of all parties will agree with him about the difficulty of operating any sort of incomes policy, but some, even among his colleagues, will feel that he has given a hostage to fortune by such an unequivocal pronouncement.

Most commentators outside government, many MPs of all parties, and even some ministers believe that it will be impossible to get through the economic troubles of the coming year without resort to some kind of pay freeze, possibly index-linked. For once Mr Wilson has declined to keep his options open.

Mr Wilson was critical of newspaper reports which, he alleged, did not discover laws economic crisis until Labour had been in office for about a week. He acknowledged that Britain was in for a very difficult year.

But those who try to write off the Prime Minister as a man who has written us off so often before and they have been wrong. They do not know the mettle of the British people.

Butter deal angers W Germans

From Our Correspondent
Bonn, Dec. 29.—West German

butter is being sold in Britain up to 60 per cent cheaper than at home at the expense of the German taxpayer, the *Hamburger Nachrichten* newspaper said today.

The magazine claimed to have obtained information that the secret butter deal had been signed in London earlier this month.

It provided for supplies of 20,000 metric tons of subsidised butter from Schleswig-Holstein, West Germany's northernmost state, to the British market for the next four years. *Der Spiegel* said the contract had been signed in the presence of a German Embassy attaché.

According to *Der Spiegel*, subsidies paid by the Bonn Government and the EEC total 448 million (75p) per ton of butter sold in Britain, at less than one mark (17p) more than the British selling price.

A big campaign would be launched in Britain next month to promote German butter sales, the magazine said.—Reuter.

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Investigation into CIA proposed

Investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency by an independent commission—the lines of the Warren Commission which inquired into President Kennedy's assassination—is being considered by President Ford. With this report yesterday came an allegation that among Americans under CIA investigation in the past has been Justice William Douglas of the Supreme Court.

Leader page 9
Letters: On the hospital consultants' threat of sanctions, Professor Ian McColl and Mr T. R. Beaton; human rights in European law, from Mr N. March Himmings.

Leading articles: Mr Callaghan's Africa tour; Bangladesh emergency. Features, pages 4 and 8
Frontline: Moorehead's interview, Gracie Fiske, Geoffrey Smith describes the hurdles in the way of a quick dash to a June referendum on the EEC; Nicholas Ridley on why the Tories must break out of their make-believe world; Lord Chalfont asks if one innocent Ulster victim is more deserving than another.

Sport, pages 6 and 7
Cricket: England fight back in third Test; Football: Weekend roundup; Tennis: Connors moves closer to winning Australian Open; Rugby Union: Weekend reports; Racing: Prospects for Farnwell Park and Leicester.

Arts, page 5
David Robinson on holiday films for children: Paul Barker on songs of social change.

Cuba agrees to take guerrillas

Managua, Nicaragua, Dec. 29.

Cuba has agreed to accept the 100 guerrillas who killed a former Nicaraguan Cabinet minister when they burst into his home on Friday night and are still holding 12 hostages, it was officially announced today.

Cuban officials also guaranteed the safety of anyone accompanying the guerrillas and the immediate return of any aircraft flying them to Cuba, according to a communiqué from the office of President Somoza of Nicaragua.

Earlier today the Government announced that the members of the Sandinista Liberation Front—five men and three women—had postponed their deadline for compliance with their demands for 48 hours.

They also freed all women, servants, musicians and waiters, held in the home of Señor José María Castillo, the former minister who was killed.

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HOME NEWS

Masters call for spring leaving date in schools, but minister rules out early action

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

It was too late to fit legislation for any change in the school-leaving date into the next parliamentary session, Mr. Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

The Assisted Masters Association at its annual council meeting in London yesterday had called on the minister to set a common leaving date on the last school day before the spring Bank holiday.

The department is considering this proposal favourably. It would allow some pupils aged 16 to leave after they have taken their examinations instead of staying to the end of the summer term.

The department has found much support for the change among local education authorities and teacher unions. At present pupils who become 16 after February 1 must stay at school until July.

Mr. Prentice told me that he was still keeping an open mind. The results of the discussion have not yet been analysed and he has still to read a study by school inspectors on the effects of the first year of raising the leaving age.

"We should need legislation to make any amendment to school leaving dates at all," he said. "It is now pretty clear that

time for this is limited in the current session of Parliament. It follows from this that there would not be any change to affect 1975." Mr. Prentice remains opposed to any major changes in the reform which was carried out last year.

The conference rejected a motion from the Gloucestershire branch that the leaving age should be reduced to 15 until the economic climate eased. In proposing it, Mr. Donald Pickles, of Cheltenham, said teachers had been forced to fall back on "chalk and talk" lessons for pupils over 16 who wanted to leave and who were the least able to learn from that type of lesson.

An earlier motion from Avon branch regretting that the raising of the leaving age to 16 was introduced without the support of most teachers and without any real understanding of the educational implications was not put to the vote.

Mr. David Harris, Bristol, said most teachers with whom he had spoken believed that the age was raised to keep down the unemployment figures and to retain children in school rather than at job centres. "They did not give us the equipment to carry out the job," he added.

Mr. Robert Leahy, Liverpool, said they could not possibly go back on raising the school-leaving age after only a year of experience. Mr. Ian Potts,

Ealing, said it would make unemployment much worse to lower the age.

Mr. Bruce Heather, Durham, said a common leaving date before the spring Bank holiday would encourage pupils who would have left at Easter to stay on and take some CSE examinations. It would also prevent those who had taken CSE from staying on aimlessly until the end of term.

"Blacklist" questions: Mr. Prentice is to be questioned in the Commons after the Christmas recess about a confidential "blacklist" of teachers said to be circulating among education authorities (the Press Association reports). "It is called List 99, and that adds to the minister's overtones," Mr. Philip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby, North, said yesterday.

Mr. Whitehead has tabled questions asking for details of the list which, he says, is compiled by the department and applied to all teachers below the level of university teachers. He said: "I agree there ought to be some sort of blacklist giving the names of people who have committed serious 'moral' and 'political' offences, whatever they may be. I shall want to know what the minister's criterion is for these so-called offences when they compile or update the list."

Englishman shares chess lead at Hastings

From Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

The lead at the end of round two in the premier chess tournament at Hastings yesterday was shared between Roman (England) and Beljarsky (USSR) with 11 points each, but they should be joined by the Swedish Grandmaster, Ulf Andersson, when he finishes his adjourned game against Steen from round one.

Basman played imaginative chess in defeating the Yugoslav Grandmaster, Planinc, in 30 moves. Another good home victory was Botterill's win against the strong Czechoslovak Grandmaster, Hort.

Beljarsky, who with Tal, the former world champion, is the Soviet co-champion, won securely against Mestel and already looks a likely first prize-winner.

Results, round one:

White	Black	Opening	Result
Hartston	Miller	Queen's	Draw
Coomes	Planinc	Sicilian	Draw
Vaganian	Solovjov	Queen's	Draw
Spang	Basman	Russian	W won
Andersson	Steen	Queen's	W won
Hort	G. G. G.	Russian	W won
Botterill	Mestel	Russian	W won

Results, round two:

White	Black	Opening	Result
Botterill	Hort	Queen's	W won
G. G. G.	Basman	Sicilian	W won
Planinc	Andersson	Russian	W won
Miller	Steen	Russian	W won
Basman	Botterill	Russian	W won
Steen	Botterill	Russian	W won
Botterill	Steen	Russian	W won
Botterill	Steen	Russian	W won



Botterill in play against Hort yesterday.

Farm workers' warning of industrial action leading to food shortage

By Our Labour Staff

Farm workers' leaders are planning a deputation to the Prime Minister to protest at the low level of agricultural wages, and to give warning of possible industrial action by farm workers which could lead to food shortages.

The workers are angry at the new minimum wages set by the Agricultural Wages Board last week, which they say are totally inadequate. The board's award will raise the national weekly minimum for a labourer by £2.30 to £28.50, plus a further £2 next July.

Miss Joan Maynard, Labour MP for Sheffield, Brightside, and Yorkshire secretary of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, said yesterday that milk and vegetable supplies could be disrupted unless the Government acted to improve the wages board award.

"The union is consulting all its districts throughout the country on the question of industrial action. There is a greater feeling among the membership at the moment for some form of action than there has ever been," Miss Maynard said.

There were plans to involve all unions with members in food production, distribution and retailing in action to improve farm wages. If this happened fresh produce would soon disappear from the shops, Miss Maynard said.

The union, which represents about a third of the 300,000 agricultural labour force, is seeking a basic weekly rate of £35 for labourers.

Coal 'the best prospect'

By Our Labour Staff

British energy needs in the next century will have to be met mainly by coal, not by offshore oil and gas, according to Mr. Joseph Cornley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Writing in the National Coal Board publication, *Coal and Energy Quarterly*, Mr. Cornley calls for an urgent revitalization of the industry to reverse the trend of the past twenty years.

He says the industry should be made the finest in Europe, providing security for workers, the best possible wage, and a secure supply of energy. He continues:

Even if the economy grows at only a modest rate, and even if the much-needed research into fuel utilization and conservation is successful, the future is bleak for most of Britain's energy reserves. Looking 20 years ahead we can see that at current anticipated production rates the natural gas from the southern section of the North Sea will be exhausted. Also, the production of oil and gas from the north section will have passed its peak, even with the development of new fields.

Huge investments in offshore oil would be needed to yield the equivalent of the hoped-for 150 million tons of coal annually by 1995, Mr. Cornley says. And by the year 2000 the end of oil reserves could be in sight, whereas coal reserves would last for another century.

North Sea oil technology interests scrap merchant

Mr. David Nicol, metal merchant and owner of the German Grand Fleet, is watching with keen interest the technical revolution engineers are making in the North Sea. The new devices used by the oilmen to lift weights of up to 2,000 tons at sea could be used to lift his sunken fleet of three battleships and four light cruisers from the bed of Scapa Flow. On the surface they would be worth between £10m and £12m.

"There is 125,000 tons of scrap metal down there, and 20 per cent of it is non-ferrous. Ship were built like that in those days but the problem has always been getting it 150ft to the surface," he says.

In his scrapper at Dyce, in Fife, are the hulls of one of the most powerful fleets in the world. The armour plate is valuable because it was manufactured in the days before the atmosphere was polluted by nuclear explosions. The metal is in demand to make screens for radiation equipment because it is uncontaminated.

For the rest, the vessels were built before the First World War, when copper was less than £20 a ton. It may fetch £500.

Mr. Nicol's team of divers operate from the island of Hoy. They go down into the clear waters of the Flow and meet the upturned hulls of the German ships 70ft from the surface. The battleships lie like steel whales, 980ft long and 200ft wide. The divers attach explosives to the metal and blast pieces off. It is tough stuff, built to withstand bangs, and when a section comes away it falls another 80ft to the seabed. This allows divers only a limited time to attach flotation boxes to bring the metal to the surface. The process is long and difficult.

Mr. Nicol believes that the best way would be to use the

Regional report

Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

One of the most powerful cranes the oil industry has developed. "New ideas and new capabilities are emerging all the time. Some of them will work out one day."

The yard outside his office is littered with thick slabs of armour plate and 17-ton torpedoes tubes, a slice from which reveals the atom of steel beneath. The slabs are the most valuable and least accessible collections of scrap in the world. Inquiries have come from many sources, and ironically the greatest weight of armour plate has gone to a customer in Germany.

The company also secured the right to salvage the remains of the Vanguard, the 19,700-ton British battleship that mysteriously blew up at anchor in November, 1917, with the loss of 800 men. The explosion was so violent that some of the main guns were flung on to the island of Flotta a mile away. The remains are barely recognizable as a ship but the metal is as valuable as ever to Mr. Nicol, who is not sentimental about ships.

"It will be a big, capital intensive operation to get the metal up substantially and quickly," he says. But the oil industry contractors have booked or bought every suitable vessel. In the North Sea oil comes first and old warships a distant second.

Blaze kills boy trapped in bedroom

A boy aged five died after being trapped in his bedroom yesterday in Lindley Street, Newbury, Northamptonshire. His parents and neighbours made several attempts to get into the bedroom, but were beaten back by flames. The boy, Keith Jowett, was found brought out by firemen who put a ladder up to the window. The house was gutted.

The blaze is thought to have started in the living room. The rest of the family, Mr. Alan Jowett, aged 34, his wife, Sheila, aged 27, and son Andrew, aged seven, escaped in their night clothes.

Widow dies: Mrs. May Marsh, aged 75, a widow, died in a fire in her bungalow at Mordiford, Herefordshire, yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Doorstep bomb injures man

A Big Xham man was injured when a parcel bomb exploded at his home on Saturday night. A source said that no motive was known.

Mr. Orville Phillips, aged 29, a West Indian of Clowery Square, Wardend, found the parcel on his doorstep. It exploded when he started to open it. He was taken to hospital with injuries to the face, abdomen and hands.

Trawler ban threat

Norwegian police say Norway may have to ban British trawlers from their ports at Christmas in future because of incidents caused by fishermen who have been drinking Pilsener beer. The ban would affect the 100 British trawlers who spend Christmas in a Norwegian port. The ban would be a distant second.

Communists blame owners in press inquiry evidence

By a Staff Reporter

The Communist Party yesterday published evidence that it is submitting to the Royal Commission on the Press, attributing the troubles of the British press to concentration of ownership in the hands of a small but extremely powerful group of men. Accordingly it argues that the royal commission is unnecessary, and that the Government could take immediate corrective measures.

The evidence dismisses the claim by some proprietors that they do not interfere in editorial matters. "They appoint the editors in the first place, and take good care to choose editors who are in general agreement with their own views of society."

The Communist Party asserts that the freedom of the press is impossible until capitalism is broken and a socialist society established.

Meanwhile it prescribes legislation to prohibit further mergers or concentration of control over newspapers, and says that newspaper companies should be forbidden to have holdings in television companies. Existing concentrations of control should be broken up, no firm being allowed to own more than one national daily or Sunday newspaper.

A newspaper subsidy, financed within the newspaper industry, should be introduced to help newspapers and periodicals that are in financial difficulties. Disadvantages in government advertising should be spread more equitably; government-financed printing plants should be placed at the disposal of trade unions and other democratic organizations; and the newspaper industry should be nationalized.

Other prescriptions include the introduction of a right for the workers who produce newspapers "to oppose the unbalanced, distorted, and one-sided presentation of news and comment."

Attempts to prolong IRA truce

Continued from page 1

Mr. Seamus Loughran, a senior Sinn Féin representative in Belfast and a former intern, who took part in secret talks with the British Government last night, said that the IRA leaders and Protestant clergyman, said yesterday that time was running out for the British Government. A substantial release of inmates from the Maze prison at Long Kesh might be accepted by the IRA, he said, but another Provisional source stated that the British need not go as far as that.

A soldier, who was severely wounded in a border shooting two weeks ago died in hospital yesterday. Rifleman Michael Gibson, aged 20, of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, came from Deptford, London.

Church pleads: Church congregations in Southampton heard pleas yesterday to help police in their hunt for six IRA members (our Southampton Correspondent reports).

The request for special services to be preached in churches of all denominations came from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, the Right Rev. Derek Worlock.

While the sermons were being read, more than a hundred detectives continued to search the city for the six. Two of them shot their way to freedom on Christmas Eve, and shot and injured a police constable.

After the discovery of an IRA cell in Southampton more than 20 people had been detained for questioning under the new anti-terror laws.

Man saves wife from car fire

An injured man plucked his wife from their blazing car yesterday after a collision with another car near Sunderland airport. The driver of the second car was killed.

Mr. George Pickings, aged 31, of Sea Road, Sunderland, made the rescue despite a head injury and a fractured skull. He and his wife, aged 22, were taken to hospital. She had a fractured arm and broken legs.

Drink 'aids darts aim'

Mr. Alan Evans, aged 25, the Welsh winner of the £750 first prize in the Watneys British Open Darts Championship in London yesterday credited his success to seven pints of lager which he drank before the final contest (a Staff Reporter writes).

Mr. Evans is married with two children and comes from Ferndale, where he is about to open a sports shop. He defeated 500 local finalists from all over

Mr Benn 'seems to be straying from our policy'

Dr. Dickson Mabon, Labour MP for Greenock and Port Glasgow and chairman of the new moderate Manifesto group of the Labour Party, complained last night that Mr. Wedgwood Benn, in criticising Britain's EEC link, seemed to be straying from the Government's policy of trying to renegotiate the terms of membership.

"I am surprised that Mr. Benn, who fought the election this year on two occasions on the same manifesto as other Labour candidates, is particularly being a Cabinet minister, not prepared to abide by those terms," he said. "It is very important that men in his position behave responsibly."

Dr. Mabon said his group had members with different viewpoints on the EEC, but all were united in standing by the party's policy on renegotiation.

Another Labour MP, Mr. Eric Moonman (Basilston), said Mr. Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr. Wilson were working closely together on the renegotiated terms and in a few months those terms would be available to the British people.

"It is a great pity that a distinguished member of the Cabinet like Mr. Benn is not prepared to await the renegotiation which I believe is being very carefully and shrewdly handled," he said. "Any attempt to prejudice the outcome of renegotiation would make it more difficult for those doing the job."

Hurdles on way, page 8

Boy swept away while fishing

A boy aged 14 was presumed drowned yesterday after he was swept from rocks on the Gower Peninsula, West Glamorgan, during the night.

Richard Hayman, of Wilby Park, Bishopston, Gower, was fishing with three friends from a ledge at the foot of Worn's Head when a wave swept him away. His companions tried to reach him but he was quickly lost in the darkness and rough sea.

The Queen 'entitled to make fullest use of grants'

From Our Correspondent
King's Lynn

The £1,000 grant to the Queen from public funds to convert two cottages into one on her Sandringham estate was defended yesterday by Councillor Frank Cork, chairman of West Norfolk District Council housing committee.

Earlier the Rev. David Mason, Labour candidate for Norfolk, North, at the last election, called for stricter rules relating to rich people receiving public funds for property improvements.

Mr. Cork, whose council made the grant, said: "I welcome the Queen applying for an improvement grant. For every cottage done up on the Sandringham estate or anywhere else it means providing one unit extra of housing accommodation which will save the council having to provide it in the future."

"The Queen is taking advantage of what the Government

JPs want short jail terms for hooligans

By a Staff Reporter

Defence of the rights of the courts to punish without intervention from Government, and an argument for keeping young adult offenders in custody even if only for a short while, are contained in a memorandum sent to the Home Office by the Magistrates' Association.

The Home Office has sought the association's views on a report by the Advisory Council on the Penal System setting out proposals for changes in the law on treatment of young adult offenders.

The association welcomes the proposed drawing together of the custodial and supervisory services and notes that the aim is to provide for more flexibility in treating offenders. It says the courts have always needed flexibility in sentencing powers and that any diminution of it has proved undesirable. Weight

must be given to the deterrent value of sentencing as well as to treatment and training, the association says, adding: "The paramount aim is to ensure the right of the ordinary man, woman and child to live their lives unmolested by offenders, with confidence in law enforcement as a whole. A strict penalty is sometimes appropriate without prolonged treatment or training. . . . It may be equally successful in deterring the offender for others which is the basis of law and order."

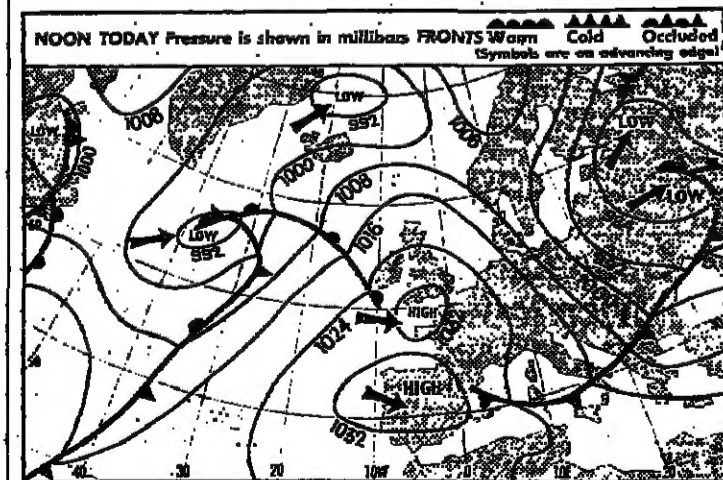
Pointing to powers the executive has to reduce sentences, the association says: "While these alterations to court sentences suit the executive, they seriously erode the credibility of the courts, whose words are made to mean less and less what they say. . . . Sentencing is a judicial function which should be exercised in court in public and be subject to judicial appeal procedures."

So the association finds wholly unacceptable the proposed new "custody and control" order giving power to the executive to release an offender at any time, even before the expiry of the order. Among several reasons the association says: "Inevitably the offender's interests will predominate rather than those of the community or the victims."

Against the supposition that a time in custody is no good if it is short, the association says that even a week or two in custody might correct some young offenders, such as football hooligans. So short a sentence might not cost a youth his job.

Rather than the proposed new control order, the association would prefer a control and suspended custody order, by which the non-custodial remedial treatment might be done, with confinement in reserve for the incorrigible.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts shown as solid lines. Wind direction and force as arrows. Cloud cover as shading.

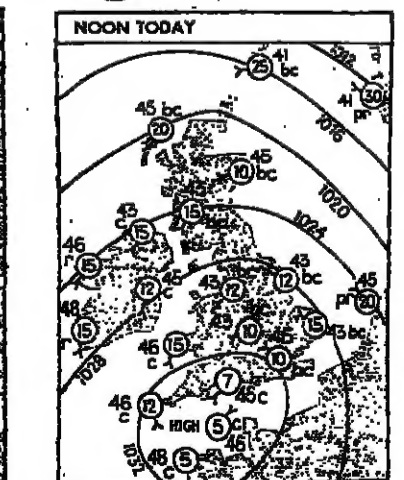
Today

Sun rises: 8.7 am. Sun sets: 4.0 pm. Moon rises: 8.44 am. Moon sets: 6.10 pm.

Last quarter: January 4.

Lighting up: 4.30 pm to 7.37 am.

High water: London Bridge, 2.12 am, 7.2m (23.7ft); 2.35 pm, 7.5m (24.6ft). Avonmouth, 7.54 am, 13.7m (45.0ft); 8.22 pm, 13.7m (45.1ft). Dover, 11.30 am, 6.7m (22.1ft); 11.56 pm, 6.9m (22.7ft). Hull, 6.47 am, 7.2m (23.7ft); 6.56 pm, 7.5m (24.7ft). Liverpool, 11.50 am, 9.1m (30.0ft).



Forecast for 6 am to midnight:

London, East Anglia, E. SE. Central S. Central N. England, Midlands: Mostly dry, sunny spells with W. moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F); min 4°C (39°F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S. Wales: Mostly dry, sunny intervals, becoming cloudy; some drizzle; wind backing SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).

N. Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Mostly dry, sunny intervals, cloudy later; rain; wind W. backing SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, E. Scotland, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Mostly dry, sunny spells, rain later; wind W. backing SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Changeable, rain at times.

Sunny intervals, generally mild at first, but temp normal in N. later. Sea passages: S. North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind W. rough, or strong; sea 2-3 m. English Channel: Wind W. moderate or fresh; sea moderate. St. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W. backing to SW, fresh or strong; sea moderate to rough.

Saturday

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 15°C (59°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 9°C (48°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 80 per cent. Rain, 10 to 6 pm, 64 per cent. Bar, 10 to 6 pm, 1003.5 mb. Sea, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1.015.0 millibars, rising.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 15°C (59°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 12°C (54°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 64 per cent. Rain, 24 to 6 pm, 0.03in. Sun, 24 to 6 pm, 2.3 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1.028.5 millibars, 1.000 millibars = 1,013.5 in.

For yachtsmen, 1975 begins today.

The new season is only just over the horizon, and Yachting World's Boat Show Number tells you exactly what's coming up. Here, in a brilliantly illustrated preview, are the major exhibits that will be on show at Earls Court from 1 January, highlighting the exciting and significant trends that add up to the 1975 season. In the same issue, Eric Hiscock relives the big moments of his recent Neo Hebrides-Niue Zealand cruise, and there's an intriguing new-type design competition.

Yachting World

Out now 40p

WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Mr Callaghan leaving for Africa today to hear leaders' views on Rhodesia conference

By David Sparrow
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, leaves London by special aircraft at noon today on an African tour that seems certain to be dominated by the Rhodesia question. He opens his visit in Lusaka tomorrow, and will visit Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and finally Nigeria before returning home on January 11.

Whether Mr Callaghan will have talks somewhere with Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, or Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister of South Africa, is still an open question. He has made it clear that, if he wants to see him, he will be willing to meet him.

The fact that he is spending New Year's Day at the Victoria Falls is an obvious opportunity according to official sources in London, to discuss with the heads of government of the six African countries on his tour.

Although Mr Callaghan sees his visit as one of general goodwill, it is clear that he does have a particular interest in Africa—there is no doubt that Rhodesia will be the

burning issue of his talks with African leaders.

So far Mr Callaghan has displayed a characteristic caution in approaching the Rhodesia question. He has watched the Africans make the running in the belief that, while Britain has the final responsibility, it is primarily an African problem and in the hope that recent developments will create the conditions for a solution. Now he wants to see at first hand how they see the prospects of a constitutional conference.

Michael Knipe writes from Lusaka: Zambia's capital is the scene of an international conference for constitutional development. The conference is being held in the hope that it will create the conditions for a solution. Now he wants to see at first hand how they see the prospects of a constitutional conference.

ments have met the Portuguese. The talks are expected to be held in Portugal.

Dr Savimbi, aged 39, who leads UNITA, has been the activist in bringing the three movements together, having signed non-aggression pacts with each of the other two rivals in the past few weeks. As yet, there has been no meeting between Dr Neto of MPLA and Mr Holden Roberto, the leader of the third movement, FNLA, but Dr Savimbi dismissed the idea that this might be a stumbling block.

The Africans are now preparing a common platform for their meeting with the Portuguese. All parties are anxious to establish an interim government and this is likely to involve all three groups. It seems probable that there will be a Council of Ministers, with three from each movement, and no Prime Minister while the Portuguese will provide a high commissioner.

Bulawayo, Rhodesia, Dec 29. —Dr Elliott Gabell, acting president of the African National Council, said yesterday his organization regrets the killing of four South African policemen by guerrillas in Rhodesia just before Christmas. It had not been easy, he said, to give all insurgents in the north-east news of the ceasefire.

—Reuter

Leading article, page 9

Bangladesh suspends constitutional rights

From Michael Hornsby
Delhi, Dec 29

President Mohammadullah of Bangladesh declared a state of emergency over the weekend and suspended all fundamental rights conferred by the constitution, such as free speech and habeas corpus. The proclamation was countersigned by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Prime Minister.

Involving special powers provided for in the constitution, the President said he was satisfied that a grave emergency existed in which the security and economic life of Bangladesh were threatened by internal disturbance.

A Government press note accompanying the presidential proclamation, referred to a group of people who had been active in various subversive activities in alliance with others who failed to attain power by constitutional means.

The note went on: "Some collaborators of the Pakistan Army, notorious for their anti-national crimes, extremists and enemy agents, in the pay of foreign powers for subverting the state, are all engaged now in activities which are creating impossible conditions in the country for attaining normal political stability and orderly economic progress."

The words "extremists" and "enemy agents" are presumed to refer to underground revolutionary groups of Marxist orientation which carved out small areas of control during the harassment of the Pakistan Army in 1971 and after secession made the new Awami League Government the target of their terrorist activities.

In a separate ordinance, the President gave the Government power to prohibit the spreading of false reports and the printing or publishing of any newspaper, news sheet, book or other document containing matters prejudicial to public safety, maintenance of public order and essential services.

The authorities were further empowered by the President to arrest any person deemed likely to act in a manner prejudicial to national security or interest or to Bangladesh's relations with foreign powers.

This provision appears to be aimed at restraining the expression of anti-Indian and pro-Pakistan opinion, but it could also supply an umbrella for stern measures against black-marketeers and smugglers.

The proclamation of the emergency reinforces the extensive powers of arrest and preventive detention which Sheikh Mujib already enjoyed under a Special Powers Act passed earlier this year.

For a year or more Bangladesh has been steadily moving towards one-party rule, with a controlled press and incarceration of political opponents of the Government. This weekend's measures simply set a formal seal on the extinction of Sheikh Mujib's over-ambitious experiment in democracy.

The official claim that the long-expected proclamation of emergency was made necessary by a sudden, new upsurge of internal disturbance cannot be sustained seriously.

Law and order broke down very soon after independence three years ago and has never been restored. According to official estimates, some 3,000 members of the ruling Awami League have been assassinated in political and personal feuds, and there is little doubt that the security forces have also done their share of killing.

In view of the ineffectiveness of previous steps taken by the Government to restore law and order and combat corruption, there must be real doubt whether even the assumption of full-scale emergency powers can now arrest Bangladesh's slide into anarchy and bankruptcy.

—Reuter

Leading article, page 9



Duck fire: Two firemen were taken to hospital yesterday after fighting a fire in a warehouse containing a thousand tons of nylon and acrylic fibre at King George V Dock, London (photograph above). About a hundred and fifty firemen, many wearing breathing apparatus, and 30

engines were called to the fire early yesterday (a staff reporter writes). It took more than eight hours to get the fire under control and the warehouse was extensively damaged. A senior fire officer said it would take several days to ensure the fire was completely out.

One of the firemen suffered the effects of fumes from burning fibre. Several others were advised to see their doctors after complaining of skin irritation, chest pains and nausea. The senior officer said acrylic fibre gave off hydrogen cyanide when burnt.

Whole population should take part in local financing, authorities say

By Christopher Worman
Local Government Correspondent

The rating system is out-of-date and no longer acceptable to the public and could be replaced by a system based on effective resources, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities says. Local government financing today, in evidence to the Layfield Committee of inquiry into local government finance, the association says that "any new system of finance should provide for the whole population from the age of 18 and all industrial and commercial resources, to contribute to the cost of services provided by local government."

"This might be done by allowing to local authorities a finite proportion of the total of national taxation, thus providing them with a buoyant source of income."

The association, which represents the major contributions, says that extra help should be provided for areas of high unemployment and for areas with high need and burden of social services.

Although hinting at some form of local tax, possibly income tax, as an alternative source of revenue to rates, the association does not give details. Its evidence to the committee, however, outlines a general position, and looks for causes for local government's perennial financial crisis.

At the end of the year it will prepare a second memorandum of intent, taking into account recent rate support grant variations between local authorities and the Government. That will include the association's positive and negative suggestions for the future of local government.

Defending local government against the accusation of over-indebtedness, the association says it has been steady in its local government finances, staff and expenditure, even in the face of social services, health and public

pressures, a lack of balance in the respective taxation bases of central and local government, a relatively heavy and growing burden on local government by reason of its need to borrow at high rates of interest from its capital investments and a relatively heavy burden on the main urban areas."

"These factors, plus the long-outdated rating system and a rate support grant which starts from the premise that resources of local authorities can be measured by average ratable values, have at a time of inflation resulted in an annual financial crisis for local government."

The association argues that there was a serious failure to deal with the long-term issues of local government finance in the reorganisation of local government last April.

"The process of adding new responsibilities both large and small and extending old ones without first establishing a modern and satisfactory base for finance leaves central government in no strong position to express surprise that the expenditure of local government is rising faster than that for the rest of the public sector."

It says that to carry out their programmes, local authorities have had to borrow very large sums "to pay for capital expenditure in a period in which interest costs have risen to unprecedented levels."

"The outstanding debt of local government is now nearly £20,000m."

The association makes the case for a greater share of national taxation to be administered by local government. Services such as education, housing, planning and highways are provided for the whole of the community because the community needs and demands them.

But Parliament has ordained that of the total of national taxation, the greatest slice should be collected and administered nationally even though it is arguable that a greater proportion of public

service, other than by the public utilities, is administered by local government than by national government."

Local government, arguing for a reasonable share of national revenues to assist in its finance, was only asking for a larger share of the funds provided by the inhabitants as a whole for the public services as a whole.

The association defends local government's record on staff increases, stating that the average annual increase of 4.9 per cent did not appear to be higher than the projected growth in services. One element in the growth of expenditure and staff had been the growth of specialization.

"The reality is that the serious ranks of specialists in government departments are available to urge local government forward in pursuit of the ideal solutions to problems."

It says that the metropolitan areas, particularly London, are special cases. The costs of administering local government in London and the other great conurbations were relatively high, yet the distribution of the rate support grant up to 1975 had failed to do justice to those needs.

"Such matters as extra costs of rebuilding rundown urban areas, the high costs of social services in areas of deprivation, are not counteracted by the so-called 'wealth' in ratable values."

The Society of Education Officers, in evidence to the Layfield committee, rejects the idea of splitting off from local government some part of the education service, such as higher education or teachers' salaries. It argues for a buoyant source of local revenue, payable to local authorities as their right.

Whether those sources are income tax, value-added tax, petrol tax or poll tax, they should be supplemented by a local property tax made more fair and elastic than now, and by a central government support grant.

Ford decision soon on inquiry into CIA

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 29

President Ford is thinking of appointing an independent commission to investigate the Central Intelligence Agency. It would be modelled on the Warren Commission (of which Mr Ford was a member) which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

The idea was suggested by Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, and Mr Ford will announce his decision this week. Meanwhile, *The New York Times* makes some new revelations today in reporting allegations of illegal spying by the CIA on peace groups in New York from 1968 to 1973, and *Time* magazine alleges that one of the ten thousand Americans investigated was Justice William Douglas, of the Supreme Court.

The magazine says that three congressmen and a senator were also investigated because they, like Justice Douglas, had visited the Dominican Republic in the past. The senator, the late Mr Edward Brooke of Missouri, had connections with foreign trading companies.

The *New York Times* describes in some detail an account given to it by a former CIA agent who reported on peace groups in New York in the closing years of the Vietnam war. He said that it was a large-scale operation involving infiltration, telephone tapping, break-ins, a great variety of electronic gadgetry and "psychological profiles."

The former agent claimed that he had used at least 40 such profiles in his work. They had been prepared by a special unit of the CIA. He said that in 1971, at the behest of Mr Howard Hunt, head of the White House "plumbers", the special unit prepared two profiles of Mr David Ellsberg, the man who had leaked the Pentagon papers. Mr Hunt then went on to burgle the office of Dr Ellsberg's psychiatrist with CIA assistance.

The latest revelations suggest that in 1972 the CIA was conducting a campaign of psychological operations at home as well as abroad, and that even if Mr Nixon had not wished to conceal the fact that he was spying on the Democrats, he might still have wanted to stop the FBI from discovering that the CIA was spying on ten thousand Americans.

More MPs urge resignation of Mr Stonehouse

Continued from page 1

Mr Harry Goulby, MP for Kirkcaldy and a former Labour Whip, said: "The deliberately deceitful actions of John Stonehouse are utterly reprehensible. They have brought discredit to politicians, the Labour Party and the House of Commons. His first action on being discovered in Australia should have been to send a telegram to the Prime Minister, resigning from Commons and the Privy Council."

Our Political Staff writes: Mr Stonehouse has in effect a fortnight to decide whether to resign his seat in Parliament by applying for the Chiltern Hundreds. If he has not done so by the time the Commons reassembles on January 13, there will undoubtedly be moves to expel him.

Mr Mellish, the Government Chief Whip, yesterday urged Mr Stonehouse to make his intention to resign known as quickly as possible.

Direct talks with Eritrea guerrillas proposed

Asmara, Dec 29.—Ethiopia's military leaders intend bringing peace to the troubled northern province of Eritrea by direct negotiation with leaders of the guerrilla movements fighting for the secession of the province, a member of the military Government said here today.

The announcement was made by Major Berhanu Baleh, a member of the ruling military council in Addis Ababa, at a meeting between senior Ethiopian Government officials and 345 community leaders from all parts of Eritrea, participants in the meeting said.

Junta leaders in banishment told of charges

From Our Correspondent
Athens, Dec 29

Mr George Papadopoulos, the former Greek dictator, and his four partners, who are banished to the island of Kea, were formally notified today that they are accused of high treason and revolt.

Appeal Judge George Volitis, who is investigating denunciations of the five exiles and 45 other junta members for seizing power in 1967, today flew to Kea by helicopter and interviewed separately each of the five junta leaders. He gave them until January 15 to prepare written statements.

New ideas yield overflowing cider crop

By Agriculture

By a West Country Correspondent

It is not surprising that this West Country apple orchard is yielding a bumper crop. For the first time for several years one of the biggest cider producers in the country thinks it will secure a bumper crop without resorting to any special measures.

Factor in the improved situation has been the establishment of orchards of bush trees instead of the traditional tall standards. The planting of bush trees is the new farming system of the apple industry. They are set 20 to 30 ft apart, instead of the 40 ft to 50 ft of traditional standards.

It can be expected of standards until they are eight or ten years old, whereas the bush trees should produce a crop of 10 to 15 tons an acre in their fourth or fifth year, and then continue to rise to about 20 tons an acre in the eighth or ninth year, after the orchard should begin to decline.

For the bush trees, the record yield for a bush plant is 25 tons an acre. For full standards, ten tons an acre is a good yield, though heavier yields have been known.

For companies concerned fully with the future of the orchard, the plastic guards to protect from rabbits and carry out pruning and spraying for several years have the cost of a new orchard at £150 an acre, and loans on suitable terms are available. One company will also con-

breaking their boughs under the weight of apples.

There were virtually no damaging frosts in May; the sunny weather of August put the bush trees in a good position to produce heavy crops caused them to swell to unusual sizes.

Under such conditions older orchards can produce fruit of surprisingly good quality. The neglect of the past is being remedied by the more progressive farmers, who now see in their older apples a worthwhile crop. The initiation of a programme of proper pruning, spraying and manuring can produce some quite spectacular results.

Some of the old favourites, such as Yarlington Mill and Kingston Black, are yielding bushfuls of plump fruit that surprises those who have been used to gathering meagre crops of stunted apples from gnarled and lichen-bung trees.

Dessert and culinary apples are also useful in the making of sparkling cider for much depends on the skilful blending of the juices of selected varieties.

Some far-sighted cider-makers still go on in the West Country. At a recent demonstration of old-time farm crafts and implements near Yeovil an old wooden cider press of traditional type squeezed the juice out of fallen apples sandwiched between two heavy metal bars. Some country lads will still serve locally made draught cider straight from the press.

Bottled cider, however, is becoming increasingly popular. Sales have increased tenfold in the past decade, and the demand still grows.

Altogether 16 teams have gone to America this year. The first team in the New Year will be from the Diesel locomotive industry and will sail on January 4. It will be followed two days later by a team from the field-box and cartons industry and five days afterwards by a team from the general iron founding industry. Eight more will follow in rapid succession, including teams from tanneries, printing, meat processing and packing, hosiery manufacturing, and chemical manufacturing.

Nato small arms criticized for being too heavy

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The current range of Nato rifles and small arms ammunition is criticized in the first edition of *Infantry Weapons 1975*, which is published today.

It comes at a time when Britain, the United States, West Germany and Belgium are engaged in intensive research on a next generation rifle.

Major F. W. A. Hobart, the editor, who is an authority on small arms, points out in his foreword that national conceits and insularity after the Second World War meant that the only item of infantry equipment to be standardized throughout Nato was small arms ammunition. But even that was a controversial choice.

"Events in the early 1950s, when the next generation of rifles was being adopted, should serve as a warning to all Nato countries," he writes. "As a result of poor military judgment and political manoeuvring, the armies of Nato have been equipped for the last 20 years with a rifle cartridge, the 7.62 millimetre, that is clearly too powerful for the task. It is expected to fulfil, and which requires a rifle that is heavy to carry and uncomfortable to fire."

A graph published in the book illustrates that 96 per cent of all rifle engagements now take place within a range of 400 metres, 86 per cent within 300 metres, 70 per cent within 200 metres and 28 per cent within 100 metres. If these figures are accepted, then Nato's next rifle need be capable only of stopping the enemy at around a range of 400 metres.

This means that there is a general requirement to find a successor not only to the Nato

7.62 millimetre but also to the Americans' 5.56 millimetre round, which, despite its successful use in Vietnam, loses some of its efficiency at over 300 metres.

Research in Europe and the United States has ranged from relatively conventional solutions, like the American TRW low maintenance rifle, to engaging new kinds of ammunition, like the caseless round—a bullet which is coated with its own propellant.

A caseless round would mean a saving in weight and materials. But success has as yet eluded the researchers partly because of the fire risks entailed in not having the propellant safely tucked away inside the metal casing.

Major Hobart contends that infantry weapons have, ironically, grown more important since the installation of large numbers of atomic weapons in Europe. In future, infantry weapons should become more effective while costing no more and involving even less back-up support, he says.

Due to the fact that it is to do more than just fight a delaying action against an enemy, there is no option for Nato countries but to try to overcome manpower shortages by equipping their armies with superior weapons and techniques.

The new Russian general purpose machine gun and Brandt's Ratelbox—a portable 50 millimetre salvo firing rocket launcher—are among the new weapons covered in this new venture by *Infantry Weapons*. The book covers the world's weapon systems so that the reader can now be said to range over all sea-based, air, and land-based weapon systems.

Infantry Weapons, 1975 (Macdonald Jones, £19.50).

Butter Token Scheme ends on 31 December.

The Butter Token Scheme will end on 31 December 1974.

Tokens dated January 1975 and later, which have been issued to some people receiving a supplementary pension or allowance, will not be valid for use and should be destroyed.

Tokens dated December may be used until 31 January 1975. They continue to be worth 6p each until then.

Retailers should surrender all butter tokens for reimbursement by 31 March 1975, to the Token Surrender Unit, Poulton-le-Fylde, Blackpool FY6 8NW.

OVERSEAS



Six of the men charged with looting in Darwin are escorted by the police to court.

Call to reduce Darwin population to 10,000

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Dec 29

Mr Gough Whitlam, the Australian Prime Minister, returning to Sydney after spending a day inspecting Darwin, said that the Government would spare no effort to rebuild the devastated city.

He has called an emergency Cabinet meeting for tomorrow to discuss plans for the rehabilitation of the city, struck by a cyclone on Christmas Day, and of its residents. On Tuesday he will resume his European tour.

In a broadcast from Darwin, he recalled the destruction caused by Japanese air raids during the Second World War. Arriving in Darwin yesterday had reminded him of his first visit to the city just after the Japanese attack, he said.

"The people of Darwin are no better off now than they were after the bombing. I want to assure you that the Australian Government will spare no effort to rebuild this city, to restore it as a proper place to live and to work." He pledged help for all those who had been "stricken" by the disaster.

Mr Whitlam went on: "It has been extraordinarily fortunate that the Natural Disaster Organisation is now in operation. It was established only nine weeks ago. Darwin is the first place where the organization has come into operation. Darwin's population must be reduced urgently from 45,000 to 10,000. That would be the maximum population

which the city can at present house. It will not be long before sufficient power is available to restore water and sewerage systems. Health hazards will then have been overcome."

Major-General A. B. Stretton, the head of the Natural Disaster Organisation, urged the people of Darwin in a broadcast: "Trust me, stay with me, do not listen to rumours about disease, and the crisis will be over in a few days."

He said that water supplies had been reconnected to most main city blocks and electric power was gradually being restored.

Because of the sweltering heat many unidentified corpses had to be buried. Two more bodies have been found—those of two sailors washed up in the harbour—increasing the official death toll to 47.

A further 6,800 victims of the cyclone were flown out yesterday and 7,000 today. By tonight 17,500 had been evacuated. Dozens of commercial and military aircraft joined in a shuttle service.

The police in Darwin have warned looters that they will be shot dead. More armed police have arrived in Darwin and are patrolling the streets.

Fifteen people were brought before a Darwin court on looting charges. Two Aborigines were sentenced to 18 months' jail for looting. Several other men were said to have been arrested in a house stacked

with new goods. They all pleaded not guilty and the hearing was adjourned.

Darwin, Dec 29.—A sign planted in front of a pile of mangled wreckage that once had been a house read: "Heartbreak Hotel—no vacancies."

General Stretton came close to tears as he tried to console the victims. His first stop was the shell of a house less than a mile from the badly damaged airport. Mr Sam Abu-Asi, a Syrian, who migrated to Australia 17 years ago, stood speechless beside what had been his home. Only one wall remained. His wife squatted in the remains of her kitchen.

Holding his four-year-old son, Rami, Mr Abu-Asi said: "I came here so long ago, I work 18 hours a day, seven days a week, to build a house and life for my family, now it is gone."

Torrential rain fell for most of last night and women and children huddled for shelter in the shattered remains of the airport departure lounge waiting for flights.

Church services for all denominations were held today. In St Mary's Roman Catholic cathedral, a structure in reinforced concrete whose sharp pieces of metal were all over the place. They hid in a shed, praying.

She told her two children Jean and Louise that "Father Christmas had arrived and had landed on the roof". They seemed to accept it.

Mr Lennox Walker, a long-range weather forecaster, gave a warning of five more cyclones.

He said that three cyclones would hit the central coast of Queensland on February 13, March 2 and April 7. Two other cyclones would strike Western Australia, near Windham, about 280 miles from Darwin, between January and March.—Reuter.

A group of 43 weary, bedraggled Britons were flown into London yesterday after losing their possessions in the devastation of Darwin.

They were employees of the Foreign Office at the government relay station in Darwin, accompanied by their wives and children.

The 43 were flown out of the area by the RAF and then travelled from Singapore on board a British Airways VC10. They were met by Foreign Office staff. A special room was set aside for those who had lost their passports or had no money.

Mrs Vivian Buffery, aged 28, from Luton, said of the disaster: "We just grabbed the children and ran to a neighbour's hut. As we were doing so all sorts of things were flying through the air. Washing machines, fridges and razor sharp pieces of metal were all over the place."

She told her two children Jean and Louise that "Father Christmas had arrived and had landed on the roof". They seemed to accept it.

In brief

Tearful eulogy to Jack Benny

Los Angeles, Dec 29.—Leading figures in the entertainment world today attended the funeral of Jack Benny, the comedian. One of his closest friends, George Burns, tried to give a eulogy but broke down sobbing. Bob Hope took over as Mr Burns was led away to his seat.

Troops tackle oil

Tokyo, Dec 29.—The Defence Agency today called in 700 troops to clean up the shore around Japan's Seto inland sea where a giant oil slick has cost the fishing industry nearly \$4,000m yen (191m).

Israel quintuplets

Jerusalem, Dec 29.—Mrs Tova Medina, aged 31, who underwent hormone treatment after being childless for seven years, today gave birth to quintuplets. They are all in comparatively good health in incubators.

24 die in air trip

Guatemala City, Dec 29.—A private commercial Lockheed aircraft, carrying 21 American tourists and a crew of three burst into flames on taking off from the Mayan ruins of Tikal in northern Guatemala, killing everyone on board.

5,000ft death plunge

Mudgee, Australia, Dec 29.—Two skydivers plunged more than 5,000ft to their deaths today when their parachutes became tangled in a linked hands leap from a light aircraft.—Reuter.

Volcano descent halted

Scott Base, Antarctica, Dec 29.—A French, American and New Zealand effort to descend into the active volcanic crater, Mount Erebus, in Antarctica has been abandoned after it started to display potentially dangerous signs of activity.—Reuter.

Admirable Dr Kissinger

Washington, Dec 29.—For the second year in succession, Dr Henry Kissinger emerges as the man Americans most admire in a Gallup opinion poll published by the Washington Post. Former President Nixon gained seventh place.

Heath Caribbean tour

Mr Edward Heath will have talks with Mr Lynden Pindling, the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, and Mr Michael Manley, the Premier of Jamaica, during his visit to the West Indies for which he leaves today.

US aviation body blamed over Paris airbus crash

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

The DC10 Airbus was given a certificate of airworthiness by the United States Federal Aviation Administration without sufficiently stringent safety tests, according to a report made public in Washington over the weekend.

A DC10 owned by Turkish Airlines crashed after taking off from Paris for London last March killing all 345 on board, including 175 Britons—the world's worst air disaster.

A large part of the blame for that crash is now placed with the FAA by the report, which was drawn up internally in April by officials of the administration itself, but which remained secret until this weekend. It was then released attached to a second report on the DC10 by a House of Representatives special investigations sub-committee.

The House committee alleged that the FAA put thousands of lives at risk needlessly and

unjustifiably by failing to deal properly for almost two years with a danger which had been shown up in the DC10 design.

This was a reference to the rear cargo door which in the Paris disaster blew out under the pressure inside the aircraft hull. The force of the pressure released pushed the cabin floor down and this severed controls under the floor.

In July, 1972, the cargo door of an American Airlines DC10 blew out over Windsor, Ontario, but on that occasion the crew were able to bring the Airbus down safely.

The Congress investigators were unable to obtain a satisfactory answer as to why the door of the DC10 in the Paris crash had not been modified.

About 150 DC10s are now in service with airlines, including one British operator, the independent Laker Airways, and the FAA report comments that with the modifications which have been made, there is no doubt that the cargo door is safe.

A town learns to live with its mice

Kalgoorlie, Dec 29

Mice, driven from the plains of Western Australia, by huge bushfires, have overrun the gold-fields town of Kalgoorlie.

Police Constable Stewart Ainsworth said today that there was panic when the mice first began moving into town about three months ago.

Constable Ainsworth added: "I think we are fighting a losing battle. Residents are finding mice in their beds and even in their baths. I heard about one bloke who found a mouse in his beer. He just flicked it out and kept on drinking."—Reuter.

Miss Morosi will join staff of Dr Cairns

From Our Correspondent

Melbourne, Dec 29

Dr Jim Cairns, the acting Prime Minister and Federal Treasurer of Australia, announced today that Miss Juni Morosi would rejoin his staff as a private secretary. Dr Cairns said she would begin her duties as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made.

Miss Morosi was first appointed to Dr Cairns's staff on December 2—but withdrew after a storm in Parliament and controversy in the press. Dr Cairns said today that allegations and innuendoes in the newspapers had made it impossible for her to continue with her work in his office, but she had now reconsidered her decision and wished to accept the post. He was satisfied she was qualified for a position as private secretary, and she would work in public relations with special reference to communications with industry, banking and consumers.

Soviet dissident to face trial in Lithuania

Moscow, Dec 29

The Soviet authorities have flown Dr Sergei Kovalev, a dissident biologist, to Lithuania where he will apparently face trial on charges of disseminating unofficial publications, Academician Andrei Sakharov said today. Dr Kovalev was arrested on Friday in connection with investigations into an underground Lithuanian journal on Roman Catholic Church affairs.

Meanwhile, Professor Alexander Voronel, a Soviet physicist, arrived in Israel today after a two-year struggle to emigrate from Russia.—Reuter.

Guarantees hold up peace talks in Cyprus

From Our Correspondent

Nicosia, Dec 29

The Greek and Turkish Cypriot representatives had another meeting over the weekend, but they again failed to agree on a mutually acceptable basis for resuming their peace talks.

An official announcement after the meeting said Mr Glafkos Clerides, president of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives, and Mr Rafiq Denkash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, continued to exchange views on a basis for beginning talks on the substance of the problem.

After their last meeting on December 19 the two Cypriot leaders announced that they had reached agreement on "all points but one". According to informed sources, the remaining obstacle is the form of international guarantees for the constitutional order likely to emerge from their deliberations.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Makarios was reported to be greatly concerned over the continuing rift within the Cyprus church. This became apparent after the collapse of an attempt by Archbishop Seraphim, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the Primate of Greece, to reconcile Archbishop Makarios and three unfrocked rebel bishops of the Cyprus church.

Our Athens Correspondent writes: "A Greek military manoeuvre was staged unexpectedly in the Aegean Sea yesterday to test Greek defences in case of attack—presumably by Turkey. It is understood that the alert involved the Greek islands in the eastern Aegean, which have been fortified against possible Turkish attack."

Al Fatah chief still intent on killing King Husain

From Paul Martin

Beirut, Dec 29

Arab hopes for a reconciliation between King Hussein and the Palestinian guerrillas have been dealt a serious blow on the threshold of the proposed combatants' talks in Cairo. The setback came in the form of a renewed assertion by Mr Salah Khalaf, the second in command of Al Fatah, that his group still intended to kill the King and overthrow his regime.

Jordan has demanded as its price for burying the hatchet with the guerrillas an end to the four-year-old campaign waged against it. Earlier the guerrillas appeared to have taken a step in this direction by deciding at their central council meeting to end the Palestinian propaganda war against the Hashemite kingdom.

Mr Khalaf, whose nom de guerre is Abu Iyad, personally led an unsuccessful attempt on the King's life while he was attending the Arab summit meeting in Rabat. The plot was foiled by Moroccan security forces after a tip-off from the Spanish police.

Al Fatah is the biggest of the Palestinian groups and is headed by Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. However, Mr Khalaf has a considerable following, particularly among the terror-oriented members of Al Fatah. The planning of the Black September terrorist network has been attributed to him.

"If anyone wants to give Hussein a chance," Mr Khalaf said in an interview with the Qatari press group, "then let us do it. So far as I am concerned, the matter is settled and the question is clearcut. I am not giving the King a chance."

Jordan had earlier criticized a statement by Mr Khalaf made at a press conference in Beirut, in which he claimed responsibility for the Rabat operation. According to Jordanian sources, this latest outburst against the King and his regime will increase the obstacles in the way of a normalization of relations between Jordan and the PLO.

Cairo ministers in Russia

Moscow, Dec 29.—Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, today met Dr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and Lieutenant-General Muhammad al-Gamassi, the War Minister.

The discussions, which Western diplomats say may reflect a crucial stage in Soviet-Egyptian relations, took place in a "friendly atmosphere", according to Tass.

The two ministers arrived here yesterday in response to an "urgent" invitation from Mr Brezhnev, according to political

sources quoted in Cairo. Both those sources and Western diplomats here said the visit is connected with Mr Brezhnev's announced visit to Cairo next month.

There has been some diplomatic speculation, unconfirmed by official sources, that Russia has threatened to postpone or cancel that visit unless a substantial degree of agreement is reached beforehand mainly on Middle East peace moves and Soviet weapons shipments.—UPI.

Rocket attack on South Vietnam city

Saigon, Dec 29

Communist forces yesterday launched artillery and rocket attacks on the city of Tay Ninh, 50 miles north-west of Saigon, and on military base camps near the city.

Reporting the attacks, the South Vietnamese command said the rockets and shells caused no casualties, but four Government soldiers were killed in fighting round a communications centre on Ba Den mountain.

During the past three weeks five district towns have been captured by the communists. Three of them were in Phuoc Long province, north of Saigon. The Government command said 80 mortar bombs last night hit a military position near the province's isolated capital, Phuoc Binh.—Reuter.

Our Gracie: A little frail but still in good voice



Gracie Fields today: "I can still sing. I still have the voice."

"Our Gracie", says the young man at the reception desk, not flinching for an instant from using the legendary cliché, "is in room 733". On the seventh floor two maids, with the mixture of reverence and she's-a-good-sort affection that must have accompanied her all her life, are discussing when to do "her" room. Two middle-aged ladies, from the North, and a young photographer are coming out of the Maxwell suite at the Westbury Hotel, where Gracie Fields, 77 in the New Year, is spending her annual week in London.

She is smaller than I expect her to be, rather well dressed in dark red trousers and matching jacket, with glasses, red lips, and gold slippers. She has aged in the tradition of the great indomitable English ladies, with a pug nose and soft white hair. She is a little frail, but her skin is extraordinarily unlined, a firm and friendly matron, who suddenly, astonishingly, does a quick dance and bursts into song. The famous voice is just the same, "something between a yodelling song and a Bach cantata" as a critic once somewhat unkindly but very aptly called it.

"I can still sing. I still have the voice", she says. "That hasn't gone." Gracie Fields tried to retire when she was 47, saying she was too old to "sing her legs around". She tried again at 67, and began giving goodbye concerts in America, Canada, and all over England. Now, 10 years later, her concert days are really over, though clubs and theatres still make offers. "I can't make any more appearances," she says with a real note of regret. "I might get a cold and then not be able to appear. And I've seen so many people making comebacks when it's unfair to ask the audience for the money. I want them to remember me in full bloom."

Full bloom was the 1930s when the Lancashire girl from Rochdale, the girl who had worked in the mines, and made good in the south, without losing her uncompromisingly no-nonsense manner, and Lancashire vowels, was said to be the richest working woman in the world, earning more than £150,000 a year from films, shows and records.

Sally in-ow alley, made in 1931, took more money than any British picture of its vintage and gave her the song "Sally" which she has sung ever since. She started an orphanage and toured the country from end to end, surrounded by her family, songwriters, managers and accompanists. In August, 1934, 110,000 people, the equivalent of Blackpool's entire resident population, heard Gracie Fields sing at their Grand Theatre.

She sang two kinds of songs, comical character ditties and the sentimental, gushing tunes like "Sing as you go".

"The jokes just happened. To start with I thought it was terrible when people laughed at me. It was all right when I was mimicking other people, because then I could pretend that they were laughing at them. But then one day I was asked to ad lib in a sketch and I realized what fun it was. It's their laughter they want, then you can just keep adding to the jokes." But she is wary of mimics, and the people who mimic her and her songs.

"When you see stars doing the same things again and again, the same songs and the same mannerisms, it's easy to copy. You've got to find your own character. Just as I did watching people like Charlie Chaplin and George Formby."

During the war she took her songs and her sketches touring the troops and sang "She's going to string old Hitler / On the very highest bough / Of the biggest aspidistra" and came back to the CBE, the Freedom of Rochdale, and an honorary degree of Master of Arts from Manchester University. A passing unpleasantness over her departure to America with her new "enemy alien" Italian husband, Monty Banks (when she was accused of taking a lot of money and jewelry out of the country) did not mar her popularity for long.

After the war she turned from music hall to concert. "I sang my songs, and told nice clean

stories with a laugh at the end."

She topped the bill at the London Palladium, earned a record of £6,500 for eight days at the Empress Hall in Earls Court, and learnt her songs on the train between London and Capri, her real home since just before the war. "I kept nearly selling the house there, only I realized that those journeys were the only time I could learn new songs. On tour here it was impossible, people, shows, never a moment off. So two days there and two days back and a rest in between and I learnt a whole new set of songs for the Palladium."

During those years she never read a press cutting about herself. "My mother looked at them all. They affected me somehow. Once I did a show and sang 'Little old lady'. Everyone loved it. But then I read a piece a critic wrote about it being a ridiculous song for a royal command performance. So I started picking at it, and thought yes, it is rubbish. So next time I sang it, I sent it up. The audience was furious. From then on, what the audience likes, I'll sing."

Gracie Fields did one straight Paris, when she was asked by Sir Gerald du Maurier to be his leading lady in *S.O.S.* She took the part of a girl who commits suicide in a wayside inn. "Everyone was scared stiff that it would make me leave music hall. But I don't want to go to the theatre every night and say the same words. When I do a concert I change all the songs around to keep fresh, so it's not like putting a penny in the slot, and jabber, jabber, jabber. At one time I could remember 360 different songs, and I would just start singing whatever I thought of next."

So she turned down straight Paris, though she did consider at one point doing a one-woman play, a producer sent her. "It was about this woman's life. I read it. Then I put it on tape. Then I did it as an Irish woman." She puts on a strong Irish voice. "Then I did it as a Scotsman." She switches her accent. "Then I did it as myself." She reverts to the characteristic mixture of North Country, standard English and American overtones. "Then I thought I can't do this unless I can pick it up and give it a bit of a giggle. There's a smile in the drabest of lines and I want to find it in my lines."

And though the days when people mobbed her in the streets are over, it is not all that quiet anywhere. She was called up on the stage at the Danny La Rue show in London last week, and given a standing ovation. She has also just made a record "Sing along with Gracie". It's the best I've ever made. It has an impact just like it used to at the old Palladium. She is now planning two more. "I'm trying to work out my life story on two records taking the songs that meant something to me, and talking in between."

And she adds, somewhat wistfully, that she would not at all mind doing a television film of Paul Gallico's *Mrs Harris goes to Paris*. Nor has the "grande dame of the English pop song" as Colin MacInnes has called her, the warm-hearted good sort who received 100,000 letters when she was ill in hospital in 1935, quite given up her public life. "I still get a lot of letters, but I'm just not going to answer them all any more. Now it will just have to be Christmas cards." I asked her how many she had sent. "Well, I did well over 1,500 myself," she says. "And I think that's going to be my lot."

There has always been talk

of opera contracts, but "I'm just a bathroom opera singer", she says. "I think I've had a lot more fun. I just fool about. All that practising would have been a terrible chore. I never trained so I could never have attacked it professionally, only as part of a comic act, when I would be a charwoman, scrubbing the floor and singing something out of Verdi or Puccini." She does a few bars from *Madame Butterfly*.

"But a lot of people think you're most moving when you sing opera," says Boris Alperovici, Gracie Fields's third husband, who pontificates about the stirring room of the Maxwell suite, a smiling man who looks like a contented cat.

Mr Alperovici is one of the reasons why they live in Capri, since he runs the restaurant and swimming pool she had always planned to have, and insisted, when they married in 1952, on a quiet time. It cannot be all that quiet however, since Gracie Fields is recognized queen of Capri, and tour operators make special journeys to point out her house.

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Gracie in her heyday: "The jokes just happened."

SPORT

Booket

Tennis

Football

Connors in too much of a hurry

Melbourne, Dec. 29.—Connors and Newcombe today moved a step closer towards the final of the \$70,000 (228,000) Australian Open at Kooyung in Melbourne. Connors reached the quarter-final round after beating Reid, from South Africa, 6-2, 6-3, 7-6. Reid is the only player so far in the tournament to have taken a set from Connors.

Connors said after the game that he had played good tennis but had tried to hurry too much in the third set. "I think I tried to rush too much. I thought it wouldn't matter and that all I'd have to do was hit the ball and go in. I made a few mistakes and didn't take much time serving."

Connors thought he needed someone to play well against him to bring out his best shot. "I really thought I was in a real tough spot," he said, "but I was able to get myself together and didn't take much time serving."

The second seed, Newcombe, of Australia, who is expected to play Connors today, disposed of Carmichael in straight sets, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2. Newcombe said he was confident of his chances today but was still not one hundred per cent happy. Tomorrow he meets Masters and Connors meets Warwick.

Roche won his match against Peter McNamara, a local player, in four sets 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2. However, Roche's prospects are under a shadow as he revealed he had strained a stomach muscle in a previous match against Dibley.

I didn't let it fly today because I don't want to be out of the tournament. Roche said he was having physiotherapy and heat and ice treatment and expects to be fit for tomorrow's quarter-final against the Australian.

Marjorie Court and Evonne Cawley cruised into the quarter-finals with effortless straight set wins today. Other than the first round, the quarter-finals were the only ones to attract a crowd.

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Comfort in a wooden spoon race

By Norman Fox

On a day of ill winds, it was the ailing who benefited most on Saturday when Luton Town completed their third win of Christmas by beating Wolverhampton Wanderers 2-0. Luton, who were in any event the nearest "safe" club at the start of the New Year, would be almost a happy accident.

Present trends continue, the football being played in the spring by those challenging for the championship. The game is being played in a different form than that offered by the contenders for the wooden spoon.

And this also offers hope to the small clubs from outside the First Division, and even outside the Football League. The "one off" nature of cup ties could find them struggling in the league.

The games in the North of England raised the shape of the first division, but only temporarily. The postponement of Newcastle United's match against Liverpool left the top place to Ipswich Town.

The second seed, Newcastle, of Australia, who is expected to play Connors today, disposed of Carmichael in straight sets, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2. Newcombe said he was confident of his chances today but was still not one hundred per cent happy.

Roche won his match against Peter McNamara, a local player, in four sets 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2. However, Roche's prospects are under a shadow as he revealed he had strained a stomach muscle in a previous match against Dibley.

I didn't let it fly today because I don't want to be out of the tournament. Roche said he was having physiotherapy and heat and ice treatment and expects to be fit for tomorrow's quarter-final against the Australian.

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Luton's Fitcher twins, Paul (left) and Ron.

They were scored by former colleagues of the victims. Hurst for Stoke against West Ham, and Lee for Derby.

The remarkable revival of Luton is combined with a perfect story-book theme. All three of their goals in an exciting 3-2 win were scored by a teenager, playing only

his second game. Ron Fitcher, for the first and last time I will succumb to the irresistible pun that Luton have a further. The beauty of the story is that Ron was brought from Chester for only £20,000 a few weeks after Luton had purchased his twin brother, Paul, for £100,000.

By Tom Gorman

Shedding an unblemished home record which has endured for half a season is one thing; being deprived of it by an old domestic foe is another matter. Luton, who were not in haste to produce them: in any event, Manchester were punting quickly and effectively. In a side which kept the ball tight, Gorman and Rich were impressively active steaming the side, but it was quite a surprise when it turned their way after 21 minutes. Lee, who has run ahead of the ball, doubled in his tracks to nudge the ball away from an opponent to Newton, who was not a fine finisher shot past Corrigan.

Thus things stayed until just after the hour when Hartford and Marsh, with measured calculation, took the game to the next level. Derby's ranks from left to right and Bell, running in wide and free on the right, shot a fine equalizer. Now only one goal separates the two sides, but Lee, who has run ahead of the ball, doubled in his tracks to nudge the ball away from an opponent to Newton, who was not a fine finisher shot past Corrigan.

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England at last hit a purple patch

John Woodcock
Chief Correspondent
Albourne, Dec. 29

England came back from the dead yesterday, for the time at any rate. With only one bowler—Hendrick is out of action with a pulled hamstring—England dismissed Australia in the Test match for 241. When a light spared England from a difficult last minutes they were two runs and with all their second innings shirts standing.

This is a splendid effort by Willis. He is not as fast as Thompson, but he is as accurate. He is a strong, by half a torso, but he gives all he has got and no one can ask more than that. Willis has been bowling at the same sort of speed, Australia might have been in worse trouble than they were. With Hendrick unfit and Lever and Old not bowling particularly well, I confess to wishing that Snow had been out in the commentary box but out in the field he was interested, of course.

As it was, though, Greg did a terrific job of it at his last. He was a bit out of sync and on a pitch which was not to his liking. He was a bit out of sync and on a pitch which was not to his liking. He was a bit out of sync and on a pitch which was not to his liking.

But to take the good things first. In spite of heavy overcast, which it was known would be a little more early moisture and the current for England's bowlers to exploit, no one can possibly have expected Australia to lose five wickets yesterday morning for 63 runs and all in the first 10 minutes. Willis started it by having Vally Edwards caught in his first over and Greg Chappell in his second. Edwards' first over was a real one, a real one, a real one.

Willis' analysis yesterday was five for 61 in 21.4 overs, 241 runs for the series to 1-0. To

four, underlined the class that has made him a permanent fixture in the Indian team.

He and Engineer put on 72 for the third wicket before Engineer was dismissed. Lloyd at cover off Willett. Through the morning, Engineer had played an unusually restrained innings and was dismissed for 24.

After lunch, Pandit plodded to the crease before driving a team Willis started into the hands of Holder at mid-off.

Gaekwad, who started confidently, knocked a simple catch to Greenidge at mid-off. He was a bit out of sync and on a pitch which was not to his liking. He was a bit out of sync and on a pitch which was not to his liking.

Holder and Roberts traced well with the second new ball against the Australian public and there were some dangerous moments for Gavriel. Lloyd also brought on the spinners in an attempt to dislodge the bats who had together for 41 minutes. They bowled three overs before light stopped play five minutes before close.

Viswanath's cupbook innings climaxed a day of changing fortunes that saw India comfortably placed at 120 for two and then collapse to 152 for five as the West Indies bowled their hearts out. Some of Viswanath's strokes, especially the square-cut that brought him many of his

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Specialist for Lewis

Melbourne, Dec. 29.—Richard Lewis, the 22-year-old Australian tennis player, is expected to play Connors today.

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Creeping despondency

After their 3-0 defeat of Queen's Park Rangers at Stamford Bridge on Saturday Chelsea supporters must be viewing the team with a mixture of despair and despondency for with Luton Town, the bottom club seemingly beat on a miraculous revival, the team's position in the first division could be improved.

It is important, in these circumstances, that the defeat should not affect the team's morale. After their recent successes—seven points from their last four games—Chelsea were expected to confirm that they had turned the corner at last. They tried hard, perhaps too hard, to convince the world that they had turned the corner at last. They tried hard, perhaps too hard, to convince the world that they had turned the corner at last.

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Hurdles in the way of the Government's quick dash to a June referendum on the EEC

The whole strategy could collapse if one of two things happened: Renegotiation might drag on longer than ministers now expect or the Bill might get bogged down in Parliament

The Government has now terminated the main point of its referendum strategy: it is to be a short dash to a referendum in June, just before the Christmas recess, followed by a group of ministers, attended by Mr Wilson, Mr Callaghan, Mr Short and Mr Roy Jenkins, as well as by a number of officials, settled on the target date. If all goes well, it is to be held at the end of June, or possibly the first week in July. This means that the Bill must be ready to present to Parliament by the end of March and negotiations have to be completed by the end of February.

There are a number of reasons for this decision on timing, and some important consequences flow from it. The first and most obvious reason is that so long as it remains uncertain whether Britain is to be in or out of the EEC the Government is inhibited in its attempts to cope with the dangers that loom. Not only does the question absorb time and divert energy, it also makes it inevitable that every effort at cooperation with our European partners is seen in the context of a negotiation, and the matter is settled, one way or the other, at least everyone will know where he is. Secondly, the shorter the time that elapses between the

end of renegotiation and the referendum itself the greater the chances of the terms being accepted. It is now generally assumed that this is what most ministers want and one can detect a growing optimism that they will get their way. But it is feared that if there is a long interval after negotiating the terms before they are put to the vote then everything that goes wrong in the meantime, large or small, could sour the public mood.

Moreover, the sooner the referendum is out of the way the less risk there is of the Labour Party tearing itself to pieces over it. If it is held over until the autumn it would get enmeshed in the party conference season. It would have to be held in October at the latest to satisfy the pledge that the British people would be given the chance to decide the issue within a year of the general election. That means that if it is not conducted in the summer there would have to be a special assembly on this one issue—a full-scale Labour Party conference just before or just after it. That would be enough to make the staunchest party members quake.

Yet the choice of a quick dash to referendum sets a pretty demanding timetable. The whole strategy could collapse if one of two things happened.

The first is that renegotiation could drag on longer than ministers now expect. Some of them are saying that it is already clear what the ultimate terms will be. But one lesson to be drawn from the Community's history is that one should never underestimate its capacity to spin out the approach to its destination, no matter how clearly perceived. Ministers would want the negotiations to be completed, even if one or two loose ends had still to be tied up, before presenting a Bill to Parliament because it is thought that both Houses might be reluctant to pass legislation for

a referendum without knowing precisely what package was to be presented to the electorate. The second threat to the timetable is that in any case the Bill might get bogged down in Parliament. Three weeks to a month is considered the necessary time that must elapse between the Bill receiving the Royal Assent and the holding of the referendum. Even if all goes according to plan, therefore, the campaign will be a short one, though no shorter than is now regarded as acceptable for general elections. But to provide even this minimum period the Bill must reach the statute book by the first week

of June at the latest. Allowing for the Easter and Whitster recesses, that is a tight but not an impossible schedule. What it does mean is that the Government will have to produce a short and simple piece of legislation as possible.

But there are a number of points on which there is bound to be contention and scope for amendment. First, there is the precise form of the question to be put to the electorate. Strictly speaking, this does not have to be part of the legislation. But the feeling now seems to be that Parliament would not be content to leave this to a subsequent administrative order. Some ministers have been attracted by the idea of phrasing the question in such a way that one would vote "No" in order to stay in the EEC—on the assumption that most people instinctively prefer to vote "No" at a referendum because that implies preserving the status quo. No decision has yet been taken on this, but opinion within the Government may now be moving against it on the grounds that it would seem to favour the "Yes" vote.

There will certainly be dispute as to how the votes should be counted. Again no decision has yet been taken, but the chances are increasing that this will be done on a United Kingdom basis. There are some administrative difficulties over this and the

Geoffrey Smith

Lord Chalfont

Is one innocent victim more deserving than another?

On January 30, 1972, Patrick Joseph Doherty was killed in the Rosville Flats area of Londonderry, when the Army moved against a rioting crowd by a spirit of good will and conciliation, the Government now decided to pay his family £16,575. If his widow invests this money with even elementary prudence, she will be assured of an income of £40 a week for the rest of her life, and for the lives of her children after her. Of course, as Mrs Doherty has said, this cannot compensate her for the loss of her husband. The value of a human life cannot be measured in this way.

Indeed, so let us spare a thought for another casualty of the Irish madness. In April, 1972, a few months after the death of Mr Doherty, and less than a mile away from the Rosville Flats, a corporal of the Royal Welch Fusiliers was shot dead by an IRA sniper. His widow receives a pension of £31.54 a week; this will be reduced substantially when her only son reaches working age, and it will disappear altogether if she should marry again.

You may be forgiven for thinking that somebody, somewhere, has got his priorities wrong; and I am in a position to feel that many soldiers are now convinced of something which they have quietly suspected for a long time—namely, that their political masters have a somewhat eccentric system of values. Quite apart from the specific case of Mrs Doherty and the corporal's widow, the decision to offer money to the victims of the Londonderry riots has wider implications. The Ministry of Defence may pontificate as it pleases about the Army being "under no legal liability in respect of the deaths of the 13 deceased" the fact remains that many people will see that there is a tacit admission that the soldiers of the Parachute Regiment were in the wrong. This is something which will be seized on and exploited by those who have been waging war on the British Government and people. Already it is possible to discern a facile tendency—not only in the press and on radio and television, but in the rent-a-politician industry as well—to use the case of Mrs Doherty to describe the Londonderry riots and their tragic consequences. This must give a great deal of satisfaction to long-forgotten heroes of those days, Miss Bernadette Devlin, who took part in the Londonderry demonstration and later described the event, with predictable irrelevance, as "our Sharpeville". Mr John Hume, a Stormont MP, referred to it as "cold-blooded mass murder" and accused the British Army of opening fire "indiscriminately on the civilian population".

Just in case anybody should be misled by the Government's latest gesture into believing that any of this contained a grain of truth, it might be as well to recall some of the salient findings of the official Tribunal of Inquiry—subsequently accepted by the Government of the day. Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice of England, concluded that "there would have been no deaths in Londonderry on January 30 if those who organized the illegal march had not thereby caused a highly dangerous situation in which a clash between demonstrators and the security forces was almost inevitable". He further found that the decision to contain the march within the Bogside and Creggan areas was fully justified; that there was no reason to suppose that the troops would have opened fire if they had not been fired on first; and that there was no general breakdown in discipline.

He also concluded, in a phrase the significance of which should not be underestimated in the current context, that "none of the deceased was wounded or proved to have been shot whilst handling a firearm or bomb. Some are wholly acquitted of complicity in such action; but there is a strong suspicion that some others had been firing weapons or handling bombs in the course of the afternoon and that yet others had been closely supporting them".

It is true, and it is important to record, that Mr Patrick

Doherty was not one of those suspected of contact with firearms; and also that Lord Widgery's findings included implicit criticism of the Army for not persisting in its "low-key" attitude, together with the clear suggestion that in some cases the soldiers' shooting "bordered on the reckless". This is, however, not the same thing as cold-blooded and indiscriminate slaughter.

Now whether you prefer the version of Lord Widgery to that of Mr John Hume or Mrs Bernadette Devlin will clearly depend upon a number of factors, including whose side you are on in the war between the IRA and the British people. For myself, I mention these matters simply to preempt any possible demand that the Ministry of Defence should issue a formal apology or that the officers of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment should be publicly flogged. I do not suggest that the Government is necessarily wrong to offer some financial assistance to the families of United Kingdom citizens killed in a riot of this kind. There may, however, be two views about this. I do suggest that it might concentrate more of its admirable qualities of compassion upon some of the other victims of terrorism—the widows and children of our own dead soldiers; the men and women who go into a public house for a quiet drink and finish the evening blinded, maimed or mutilated; or the young secretary who goes out on Oxford Street for a pre-Christmas celebration with a friend and ends up under a restaurant table unconscious and bleeding.

In time, of course, the state will get round to compensating these people or those they have left behind. Yet some of those who contemplate the case of the corporal's widow may be forgiven for thinking that charity should begin at home rather than in the Bogside.

The IRA has now decided to extend its campaign of violence and terror to the mainland of the United Kingdom. It has followed this move with the offer of a temporary truce, with the clear reservation that it will resume its activities if the British Government does not "respond". It is, of course, the responsibility of our political leaders to decide whether this is anything more than a tactical manoeuvre. If they decide that it is, and that there is any hope that it may lead to a permanent renunciation of violence, then they have the right to expect universal support in whatever steps they take to encourage it. It may be that the payment to the victims of Londonderry should be seen in this light, in the sense that it is a gesture of which the Government can be certain is the total cooperation of the security forces. If the IRA chooses to abandon violence, temporarily or permanently, the Army will rigidly maintain what Lord Widgery called its low-key attitude.

It is, however, right to say to both the Government and the IRA that they should not take too much for granted. The Army's discipline and patience of the British Army are durable qualities; but they are not indestructible. For years soldiers in Ulster have faced death, injury, insult and humiliation doing a job which is not, strictly speaking, a soldier's job. They have endured the ill-informed and often ill-intentioned criticism of politicians and instant experts of various nationalities—not only American, Irish and Russian, but British as well.

When, in addition, they see the dependants of men killed in a rioting mob apparently being treated with more consideration than the families of their own dead comrades and civilian victims, they might perhaps be forgiven for wondering what the fighting is all about. There is a story from the days of the Second World War about an Army officer walking along Whitehall to keep an appointment, and asking a passer-by, "Excuse me, can you tell me which side the War Office is on?" "Ours, I hope," the diplomat said fervently. I trust that we may continue to say the same for the Northern Ireland Office.

Times Newspapers Ltd, 1974

The growing conflict in Israel's corridors of learning

When the head of a major university in any country resigns after pressure from colleagues over his political attitudes questions arise that go beyond the passing curiosity of the academic world and touch the corridors of learning.

If the country is Israel; the individual one of the world's most brilliant physicists and mathematicians like Professor Yuval Ne'eman; and his critics eminent fellow scientists—the circumstances have added significance. Although the affair has not been formally settled, Israeli academics are discussing the related issues over the dinner table in the way academics anywhere in the world—or certainly in Europe and the United States—compare views on open access. However, the discussion of the matter as part of their wider activities—not just about the future of science and research—but about the need for a Middle East peace settlement. Some of their ideas for making peace with Arab neighbours do not coincide with the views of politicians, yet there is a similarity with opinions of some mature student movements in universities.

The Israeli scientific community is one of the elite groups of the community. Over the past 20 years it has been nurtured and pampered to create, as the founders of Israel saw it, a vital resource for the solution of the national problems. The extraordinary success in agriculture, production in the fertile Mediterranean plain and in the programme for the "greening" of the desert, the development of a small but formidable nuclear potential, and more recently the expansion into marine and ocean technology are some of the dividends of that policy.

Israel has been spending over 2.4 per cent of its gross national product on research and development, and shares a top position with the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union in the proportion of resources allocated in this way. Last year over 7000 were into the science budget. Half was distributed between the country's seven prestige universities and research institutions. As a separate programme, spending on weapons research and development absorbed the other half. This year the civil research and development budget is being cut by 10 to 20 per cent at various universities.

On the other side, defence research spending has increased. The President of Israel, Professor Ephraim Katzir, remarked earlier this month "If there were more money available, we would increase defence research". It was a comment that mirrors the conflict emerging



Professor Yuval Ne'eman: "A very aggressive view of the world is necessary to throw this old split back into focus. Nevertheless the opinion from the academic community could carry more weight this time simply because it is many times larger. Relationships with the political establishment have been cordial while the two groups have pursued their own goals and their shared goals without a clash. Universities and research institutes have been relatively independent. They are helped enormously by financial and cooperative research with Europe and the United States. The bulk of research activity is paid for by extra-mural links and contributions from overseas. The government allocation covers the overheads of teaching and research."

Devaluation and the cuts in the science budget coincided with similar crises in most teaching and research centres in the West with whom Israeli scientists collaborate. To aggravate the situation, investigations in marine sciences and desert agriculture have reached a stage where some research workers believe the most beneficial sharing of knowledge would come in cooperating with Arab neighbours.

Like the younger generation, the academics do their army service and duty in the reserves. For the first time I missed an appointment with a research scientist because he had been called away the previous evening into the reserves. His colleagues simply covered his experimental apparatus with a large polythene sheet. They called about his part in the laboratory work as if we were waiting for him to come back from having a cup of coffee in the refectory. Apart from its national responsibilities, the scientific community has perhaps the closest contact with the outside world of any Israeli group. Most of the research and teaching institutions only give a post to a scientist with long research experience in one or more of the big American or European centres.

In principle the leading scientists have ready access to government leaders. The speaker of the Knesset has said he believes any scientist or professor wishing to contribute to a parliamentary inquiry has always been invited to do so. Understandably, perhaps, the people who have availed themselves of such opportunities tend to be sympathetic to the politically material Zionists.

Some, like Yuval Ne'eman, adopt a very aggressive view over the conflict with the Arabs and believe in philosophies like "first pre-emptive strikes" as a deterrent against attacks on Israel.

Pearce Wright

Why the Tories must break out of a make-believe world

People do not want their government to be pushed around by anyone...

There are alternative diagnoses and prescriptions for the ills afflicting the Tory Party, to those which Ian Gilmour put forward in *The Times* last month.

It is not clear why he thinks that "the October defeat was largely inevitable". Labour fought on an extremist left wing policy, which most electors found distasteful, yet we could not harness their discontent to our cause. Since the Conservative cult of occupying "the middle ground", which reached its shrill crescendo in October's theme of a government of national unity, has proved an ineffective counter to Labour's extremism, we must look for more fundamental reasons for our failure. Our bid to take over the Liberals in October failed, as would Peter Walker's suggestion of taking Labour votes by advocating Labour policies. Both strategems smack of a lack of principle, of seeking power at any price. They make the party seem opportunistic; the electors do not know what we stand for.

The Tory Party should be the party of the market economy, of freedom of choice, of private enterprise and ownership, and of a confident, ordered society. There are millions who share these objectives. They are not egalitarians. They want freedom to prosper without government interference. They want to earn, to save and to pass on something to their children—be it money or a good education. They do not want their government to be pushed around, by strikers, trade union leaders, left students, terrorists, or Brussels bureaucrats. Above all they fear the gathering economic storm. They are now not just worried for their own future, but for the future of society.

It is a measure of the failure of the Tory leadership that it could convince these millions neither of its commitment to Tory principles, nor of its ability to avert economic disaster. Convinced, it will by its thousands must the entire anti-socialist vote become. Unconvinced, that vote breaks up into Liberal or nationalist support, or simply abstention. The most pointed lesson of all is that the SNP gained its seats at our expense, not at the expense of Labour.

How then can the Tory Party convince its erstwhile supporters that it will restore stability, order and prosperity?

Foremost it must abandon the make-believe world in which it has recently taken refuge. Strangers are not coming; Ian Smith's Pover sharing and Protestant-bashing are not defeating the IRA but encouraging them. The EEC is but a harmless free trade area and not a panacea for all our ills. Our economic plight is desperate, mainly through our own fault. Inflation is not caused by trade unions or oil shocks, but by government over-spending. It is not "countered" by prices and incomes controls, which merely damage industry and investment. The reality is that we are living well beyond our means. We are enabled to do so by governments "printing" too much money. Thus we import far more than we export in order to satisfy our "printed" purchasing power. To finance this we have to borrow abroad on a huge scale—our overseas debt might total \$100 billion by 1978—it cannot go on like this.

Rigorous price controls, and a violent credit squeeze last December, have brought private enterprise to the verge of bankruptcy, and investment almost to a halt, while consumption continues to rise, resulting in our consuming half of our capital stock.

The only convincing policy to deal with this involves using the one weapon that can work: phasing out the deficit caused by government over-spending, over a period of perhaps three or four years. To say, as Ian Gilmour does, "that every known weapon must be used" against inflation is like going into battle in a Centurion tank and then throwing one's boomerang at the enemy. There is no painless way and we should stop muddling the issue by suggesting there is any alternative.

Phasing out the domestic deficit—now running at £6,300m per annum—requires the ending

Nicholas Ridley

The author is Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewksbury. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1974

The Times Diary

A seasonal gift to Fleet Street

John Stonehouse was a Christmas gift to the popular newspapers, providing an exciting holiday read in place of the customary round-up of Christmas births, snow showers on hillslopes and road deaths. With two non-publishing days to work on the story, the papers seized on the missing MP's timely reappearance with an enthusiasm reserved for such rare opportunities. The *Daily Mail* on Friday credited 21 reporters and four photographers for the coverage in their Stonehouse file, which filled three pages.

The *Mail's* credit list excited the envy of other news desks along Fleet Street. "They had 17 people credited on the home end alone," said the *Mirror's* news editor. "I would be happy if I could have counted 17 people working all told." At the *Mail*, though, they explained modestly that some of the 21 "might have made only a minimal contribution—a phone call or two—but we thought that as they had had their Christmas interfered with, the least we

could do was put their names in the paper".

The *Mail* sent a reporter and a photographer to Melbourne (economy class return fare: £513.10 each). They also engaged a Hongkong-based freelance to supplement the Australian coverage. The *Express*, who credited 10 journalists with the four pages of coverage they gave the story on Friday and Saturday, also sent one reporter and one photographer to Australia, but their new editor, Alastair Burnet, was "not keen to talk about the resources devoted to the story" yesterday.

The *Express* is said to have bought up Barbara Stonehouse at a fee which Fleet Street rumour puts at anything from £2,000 to £50,000. It is also generally supposed that they paid for Mrs Stonehouse's flight to Australia.

The *Mirror* (a dozen in the credits for four pages on Friday and more than 20 on Saturday) already had a photographer in Melbourne for the cricket, but they also sent out a reporter

"who has been waiting for Stonehouse's identity for 11 months" and had one of their New York staff go down to Miami.

Their exclusive interview with Stonehouse's secretary on Saturday, they confided after consultation, did not cost a penny. "The only way those who have not moved before can catch up is to buy up the first person they can at some exorbitant price," boasted the news editor.

One piece on Saturday was intended to point out that one paper, at least, had bought up the wrong woman.

The *Sun*, which gave Stonehouse 31 pages on Friday and two on Saturday, estimated that they had five people a day active on the story in Britain, but "because of our Australian connections we did not have to send to Australia". Without an exact count the deputy editor thought the *Daily Mail's* Friday credits possibly exceeded The *Sun's* total reporting staff.

The *Daily Telegraph* sent their man from Singapore to Melbourne (New had previously had their New York man in Miami). They devoted 13 pages to Stonehouse on Friday and seven columns on Saturday.

Serious papers do not take this sort of story so seriously. The *Guardian* did not even make Stonehouse their lead on Friday and gave him less than a page.

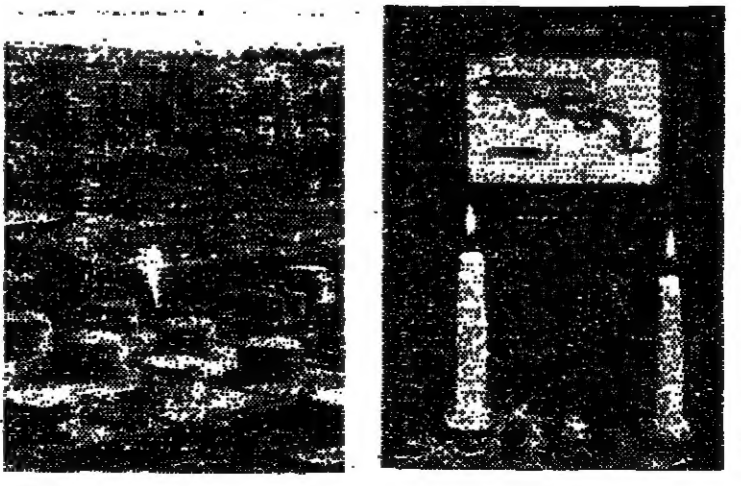
The *Financial Times* awarded him about half a page. The *Times* news desk say the story has been covered by "one reporter with the assistance of some others as required". Our foreign news desk report proudly that "we have not moved one man one yard on account of Stonehouse". The *Times* has permanent correspondents in Melbourne and Copenhagen.

The *Sunday Times*, who dig busily into this sort of misadventure, managed to credit 12 reporters yesterday, but they did it only by including a secretary in the New York office and cricket writer Robin Marlar, the former Sussex cricket captain. Marlar must have had a busy Christmas, as he reported elsewhere that he was bowling to Edrich and Cowdrey in the nets at Melbourne on Christmas Day.

Feverish

While on the subject of newspaper idiosyncrasies, I was glad to welcome yesterday morning a familiar friend: the annual flu scare. Usually it appears in the middle of December but this year, no doubt because of the surfeit of genuine misery over the past few weeks, it has been delayed.

It was The *Observer* which broke the news to me yesterday. "EUROFLU" COULD HIT BRITAIN, said the front page



My first annual award for the most unseasonal Christmas or New Year card is shared. The Hsinhua News Agency of China, sent an unattractive view of what seems to be an oil refinery, and I print a detail. The other card, with its aggressive message, was found in a shop by Ian Ford of Bristol.

headline (note the careful "could"). Medical experts were quoted as saying that the "flu epidemic" raging in Italy and Hungary "might" (that caution again) spread to Britain.

The only difference from similar reports in previous years is that it has been conventional for recent threats of epidemics to come from Hong Kong or other parts of Asia. That this one is said to come

I have received notice of a conference to be held in the New Year called: "The need for a new approach to motivation for 1975". Operating in its own principles, the first question on the fact sheet is "Why is the fee lower than that usually charged for conferences?" Moreover, the literature sent me gives no indication of what the fee actually is.

Unlucky

Little, Brown and Co, the New York publishers, have been going through some uncomfortable moments over a book they plan to publish on the life of Lucky Luciano, the Mafia leader who died in 1962. The book has been billed as Luciano's last testament, dictated by him just before his death. But there is much in the book which could hardly have come from Luciano himself.

In a long analysis, *The New York Times* has pointed out that the book not only has Luciano saying he took part in meetings which he could not have attended because he was in jail at the time, it even has him took place two years after his death.

The book is supposed to have been dictated by Luciano to

Martin Gosch, a film producer who died in 1973. But Little, Brown have now backed away from the claim they originally made that it was taken from tapes. It is now conceded that there are no tapes, and that much of the book was written by Richard Hammer, a freelance writer.

Further doubts about the book's authenticity were sparked by William Safire, a columnist, who traced the origin of an interview he had with Luciano in 1954. In the interview, Luciano strongly denied an anecdote about how he had escaped death in 1929, and had thus been nicknamed "Lucky". He said the nickname was simply a corruption of his surname. Yet in the book the 1929 incident is given.

Little, Brown are, however, sticking to their publication plans, and they are being backed by the Book-of-the-Month Club, which has selected it for February. "The club reaffirms its faith in Little, Brown," it announced. The publishers are not being talkative about the book, though. Their claims have been watered down to: "This book contains the only disclosures that Luciano made of the events that shaped his life."

Perhaps it will sell anyway.

PHS



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MR CALLAGHAN'S TASK IN AFRICA

Mr Callaghan arrives in Lusaka tomorrow on the first and presumably most important stage of his ten-day African tour. Planned before the meetings between white Rhodesian officials and black Rhodesian nationalist leaders in that capital, it is now taken on greater significance. It is no longer the goodwill and appeasement trip originally envisaged. Mr Callaghan will probably be asked in all the six African capitals he is to visit what Britain can do to visit to expedite and encourage a satisfactory outcome from the proposed constitutional conference between black and white leaders in Rhodesia, and second, what Britain will do to increase the squeeze on the Smith regime in the event of failure at the first try. To answer that the trip is merely to have general discussions will now hardly satisfy the African leaders. They will hope for something more positive.

Since the Pearce commission report, the British line has been that Britain can do no more until a settlement acceptable to all parties has been worked out in Rhodesia. The events (which of course flow from the Portuguese revolution last April) that appear to break the deadlock and bring compromises nearer have not altered this view. British ministers have argued that a constitutional conference made no sense until Mr Smith agreed to attend it, and now the official view seems to be that Mr Smith should chair it in Rhodesia, and London should be left out of the picture until the moment arrives to give legal force to any settlement that emerges. This attitude, which seems reasonable here, takes too little account of African resentment at Britain's conduct of the Rhodesian dispute so far. The

Africans now see that it was not British efforts, but those of the Frelimo guerrillas which have at last changed the scene. This may be unfair to Britain's difficulties in making sanctions work in the face of other nations' evasion of Security Council resolutions. The fact remains that they think Britain has fallen short. With Mr Callaghan to talk to now, they may very well bring up once more the list of additional measures that they think Britain could deploy to coerce the Rhodesians towards concessions—such as cutting them out of the Postal Union or cancelling British passports used by British residents in Rhodesia.

Mr Callaghan may be briefed to show that these or other measures are impracticable. But then, if the talks fail to come off or break up without agreement, it will again be somebody else who is asked to take the strain while Britain (apparently) does nothing: for then Frelimo will surely be asked to close all the Portuguese loopholes, as well as allowing the guerrillas to operate from its territory—both at no little cost to Mozambique. It will be surprising if the Africans concede to Mr Callaghan that Britain has done enough.

Unfortunately the outlook for a settlement, which would immensely relieve Britain's overseas worries, is far from promising, despite the combined efforts of Mr Vorster and President Kaunda both of whom so urgently need a peaceful transition in Rhodesia to majority rule. South Africa needs it to avoid being sucked into a kind of southern African Vietnam, and Zambia needs it almost as badly to save its crumbling communications to the coast. The recent terrorist outrage in which South African

police were killed while parleying about the supposed ceasefire shows that the Zanu guerrillas and their backers accept no ceasefire yet. Mr Smith's precondition for a conference was a ceasefire, and he can now justify a refusal to proceed until he gets one—and can press for continued South African military help. If he does not say so, some of his party faithful will. To get the conference going while the raiding continues will therefore be difficult, though of course it must be attempted. The visit of Sir Roy Welensky to Lusaka may here do good: he, better than most, can give President Kaunda a convincing assessment of white Rhodesian attitudes at this juncture, and show what is needed to get the constitutional discussions moving.

It is still to everyone's advantage to have the conference, except the terrorists, who may or may not be out of the control of their nominal political leaders. Even presuming that Mr Smith and his colleagues have decided not to yield much on early majority rule, they need a record of reasoned concessions to retain South African official support. The process of debate, so long interdicted in Rhodesia, can itself loosen up rigid attitudes. The chances of success will obviously be increased if the atmosphere is right. It needs to be seen in Rhodesia that the African leaders are trying to restrain terrorism. The pressure on the Smith regime needs to continue—and it needs to extend its clemency to Mr Garfield Todd—however much it may fear that he would prove a useful ally of the African negotiators. Mr Callaghan may not have much to contribute to this combined operation, but he will not achieve a good impression if he arrives quite empty-handed.

BANGLADESH BRACED FOR A GRIM FUTURE

The state of emergency proclaimed in Bangladesh on Saturday has seemed inevitable for some months past. Some might think that this country, born in emergency by Indian induction, has never lifted itself out of that condition in the three years of its existence. Now the doubt will be whether the call to order and the imposition of new discipline can any longer be effective when Sheikh Mujib's government has lost the confidence of the politically conscious population. For what the government must now do is not simply to put an end to the violence that attributes to its opponents, or to the hoodlums elements whose possession of arms allows them to live by exactions, but to restrain the brutality and indiscipline of its own para-military forces. The 3,000 members of the Awami League who are said to have been killed have not all been innocent victims. Killing for political ends or for local territorial gains began in the struggle for independence and has continued since, with more violence accompanying smuggling or other illicit deals. No political faction can escape blame.

To deplore the state to which Bangladesh has been reduced is not to overlook the gross hand-

caps from which, as a country, it starts. In relation to productive capacity population pressure is worse than for any other nation of comparable size. There is no mineral wealth. The quota of natural disasters by flooding, drought and hurricanes regularly exceeds any of its neighbours. The greater part of its population is underfed, underemployed and undereducated. Such conditions called forth generous alms from a world sympathetic to Bengali suffering after 1971. By now the aid-givers have lost heart and the social workers, missionaries, technicians and distributors of aid within the country despair. The begging bowl held out so confidently three years ago hangs listlessly down. The £400 millions a year that the country needs even to keep alive will not be forthcoming.

Against all these disadvantages that have brought their share of suffering to Bangladesh the charge to be set against maladministration is nevertheless heavier. The corruption goes from top to bottom. Very few of Sheikh Mujib's closest colleagues are not included in the constant allegations. And if Sheikh Mujib himself still retains some respect it must be admitted that his sentimental

rhetoric is no longer enough to win obedience from a divided country. On top of that his attachment to his colleagues is everywhere criticized, so that the Awami League far from being a party expressive of the national interest seems only one that leans on the leader and collects the pickings of power.

In what way may the state of emergency now turn the tide towards honesty and efficiency? The charges made in the proclamation against unspecified elements in the population might imply that the emergency is intended only to bolster the power of the Awami League and little else. A government of a more authoritarian character determined to impose discipline on the country might well be the harsh answer needed, but what confidence does the population have in those who would impose the discipline? Neither the Indians who "liberated" Bangladesh, nor the Russians who personize Bangladesh as a fringe responsibility to their Indian interest, nor any other aid-giver or politically interested power can or would wish to influence the outcome. Somehow Bangladesh is going to have to find its own answer to its political problems.

He found that when he stopped trying to hard everything came easily. He had been broken as Chancellor of the Exchequer by devaluation; he did not recover his confidence as Home Secretary; and his relationship with Mr Wilson was damaged by his opposition to "In Place of Strife".

But in March this year he went to the Foreign Office, his peace made with Mr Wilson, and month by month established a command over his department and over the Commons that nobody else today may equal. To a splendid presence at the despatch box, he adds an easy, relaxed style of narrative and debate that tells of total inner confidence that would be going too far to say that he has gained the world by surrendering it, but the secret seems to be that, after nearly 30 years in the House, Jim Callaghan has learnt the hard way that he values nobody's good opinion more than his own self respect.

Everybody's good opinion is therefore added unto him. It is a backhanded tribute, yet still a significant tribute, that when two or three Tories gather together and speculate about an impending national crisis that could break up the existing party system and bring a coalition government into being, Mr Callaghan is usually named as the one man round whom the coalition could form.

I believe they mistake their man: Mr Callaghan is too deeply steeped in his party's history, too much the party manager by inclination, to go the way of Ramsey MacDonald in 1931. But there is no doubt that he would be there in any coalition in the immediate future. He towers over both front benches, at least for the time being.

I hope it will not seem perverse to name as runner-up for the Westminster Oscar, 1974, Mr Edward Heath, above all for the strength of character he has shown in defeat and in adversity. Public life is made easy by success. The carry the victorious laurels through his 18-hour day, doubling his energy and making hard work light. But in defeat there is no consolation to be found anywhere except in the reading and re-reading of Kipling's *If*; and

Mr Heath has no marked taste for poetry and the balm it may lay to the troubled soul.

For Mr Heath there is the bitterness of knowing that if he had stood his ground against those who expelled him into a late February election he could still have been at No 10. Now he has lost two general elections in quick succession, and every day he awakens to lead into battle a party that openly searches for a new general. His sense of his own and his friends' distance themselves into discretion. The humiliation is heaped upon him of designing the scaffold of a new leadership election procedure on which he must soon stand.

Nothing in Mr Heath's public performance of his duties since the October general election hints at the gall that must now be his daily draught. Somewhere within himself he has found the resources of courage and character to face a world of critics and intrigues, and to continue the fight to vindicate himself as leader against all challengers. I find that admirable. With one exception, his rivals for the party leadership, if they exist, have so far shown markedly less courage and character.

The exception, of course, is Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who must be reckoned not only the woman politician of the year but also of the decade. In 1974 she came to full stature: one of the most formidable debaters on the Conservative front bench, one of its toughest thinkers, and the first woman in British politics ever to go for the party leadership. When the 1922 committee vote under the new leadership procedure in February or March Mrs Thatcher may succeed only in smoking out into the open a more successful male challenger to Mr Heath. But she will still have jumped ahead of all the rest of her political generation (she is 48) and will have to be reckoned with as a new and original force in Conservative politics for many years to come.

It is certainly a safe bet that in the fullness of time she will become the first woman Chancellor of the Exchequer Westminster and Whitehall have known, and when the day comes we shall all know she has arrived.

David Wood

Awards for the politicians of the year

As the year closes it would be agreeable to look back on 1974 and be able to point with absolute certainty to the birth of one new idea in British politics, or even an old idea that had been given force and freshness by the genius of its expression. Any such search must fail. British politics remains stubbornly non-intellectual, an activity as practical as bookkeeping or bricklaying whenever it is not simply a series of reflex responses to external events. In spite of two general elections and three Budgets nothing uttered by a British politician in 1974 will deserve to live on into 1975 for its own sake, unless it is the beautiful paradox from Mr Willie Whitelaw, as Conservative Party chairman, when he accused Mr Harold Wilson of "stirring up complacency" during the October election campaign.

Those who mocked Mr Whitelaw for verbal ineptitude made too little allowance for the backstage energy Mr Wilson can bring to a policy of masterly inactivity.

In default of ideas, then, how shall the year 1974 be remembered? The answer is: by the politicians who set their stamp upon it either by their abilities or their force of character. On that test the politician of the year, the winner of the Westminster Oscar, must be Mr Jim Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary.

Consultants' threat of sanctions

From Professor Ian McColl
Sir, As an independent member of the Owen Working Party, I wish to clarify certain features of the negotiations which seem to have caused some confusion.

First, in response to the profession's request for a new contract in 1974, the Government offered its new consultants contract on December 20. The profession is under no obligation to accept it and may continue with the existing contractual arrangements which would continue to apply to future consultant appointments. Some consultants are under the impression that they are applying sanctions because this contract is being forced on the profession. This is certainly not the case.

Secondly, the profession asked for the present open-ended contract to be closed and emergency work at nights and weekends to be paid for separately. It would be fair to state that the Government and the Department of Health and Social Security were opposed to this, but later gave way. They have defined the closed contract as normally constituting a five-day week from 9 am to 5 pm. Clearly some definition is essential in order to allow extra payment for emergency work done out of hours. This definition is not rigid and in no way precludes other working hours such as 10 am to 6 pm or 8 am until 4 pm provided this is acceptable to the other members of the hospital staff.

Thirdly, I have attended all the meetings of the working party, and have heard full discussions on most of the important aspects of the new contract. Naturally some discussions were curtailed in December due to the threat of sanctions. David Owen has been an honest and noticeably patient chairman who has compromised on many issues. He originally wished to pay those who did not practice privately a differential of 18 per cent, which is approximately as it now stands, and which incidentally is offset somewhat by the favourable taxation arrangements enjoyed by those engaged in private practice. Originally the latter were not intended to have career structure supplements but again he compromised over this issue.

Lastly, the frustration of the consultants can readily be understood. At a time of severe inflation they have seen their earnings in the National Health Service falling far behind those of other professional bodies. Those working in hospitals far from large centres may lose as much as 50 per cent of their gross earnings when the pay bands are compared with the private sector. The running very high indeed and clearly what is required is a cooling-off period in the interests of patients and the medical profession, both of whom may suffer irreparable damage from the results of sanctioning a new contract. I am sure that the genuine belief that it would especially help those working in understaffed and unpopular situations. Many think it contains imperfections and uncertainties which need clarification. What is required in this crucial time is further discussion rather than precipitate action.

Yours faithfully,
IAN McCOLL, Professor of Surgery, Guy's Hospital, 10 Gilkes Crescent, SE21.

From Mr T. R. Beason
Sir, Might I be allowed to comment on your leading article (December 27) on the hospital consultants' contract?

The trial of Dr Shtern

From Mr Boris Antonov
Sir, I have read the letter by Michael Sherbourne you published (December 20), and decided that you probably do not have all the information. I see from London whether witness Gushva cursed Dr Shtern for swindling and deception or sang praises to him as the best of all doctors. But I think you will agree with me that no person can be declared not guilty *a priori*, without even knowing what he is charged with.

Yet, it was precisely so on the part of Bernard Levin and those who took to his article as the gospel truth. Mind you, even before the trial began in Vinitsa, the Shtern case, in general a run-of-the-mill case about swindling and bribe-taking, was raised to the rank of epoch-making one, "the like of which has not been seen in the civilized world for some five or six centuries" (I quote Levin). Even before the preliminary investigation was completed and the indictment drawn up, in Britain and indeed in other countries, actions in defence of Shtern were organized. Those who spoke calmly in advance that Shtern was absolutely innocent. The possibility of Shtern being guilty at all was rejected out of hand. There are still many letters, petitions and memoranda arriving in Vinitsa, in which Shtern is announced as not subject to law simply because he is a Jew.

Such an approach to Shtern's defence is bound to go beyond the bounds of common sense. In my accounts from Vinitsa which were forwarded to you I wrote only about what I had seen and heard. The

It is not only the BMA, but also the Hospital Consultants' and Specialists' Association of which I have the honour to be president, which is advising its 5,000 members to work to their contractual hours as from January. The reason is not, as you suggest, that our "relative status" has declined; we have enough confidence in the skills and judgement which it has taken us many years to acquire to be sure that our real status will never decline.

Nor is the dispute mainly about money. Of course we deserve to be better paid for the work that we do. Which other section of the community would tolerate being paid for 11 or 38 hours work a week while working for over 60 hours and being on emergency call for a further 40 hours? We are also sufficiently aware of the nation's economic situation to consider it monstrous that the latest government proposals offer to pay to 50 per cent more pay to a consultant if he will agree not to heal the sick in his spare time.

The real issue is about the continuing of medicine in Great Britain as an independent profession exercised by men and women whose only obligations are to their patients and their code of ethics, and not to the state. Mrs Castle (to quote from one of her department's recent papers) would like to see us employed on the same terms as civil servants and soldiers. We have seen enough of both these professions to believe that none of our patients would benefit from the consequences if the Secretary of State had her way in this matter.

On the Friday before Christmas, Mrs Castle presented us with a "take it or leave it" proposal which set at naught months of negotiation with her junior minister, Dr David Owen, chairman of the Working Party on Consultant Contracts. That proposal did not in strict terms "impose" a fully salaried health service on us—had it done so, you would apparently have thought our action justified. It sought to achieve the same end by the more subtle but just as effective means of making the alternative to such a system—other than emigration—financially so unattractive to consultants that most of us would have no option but to accept the state's strait-jacket. If the effect is the same, does it matter that the means are financial inducements rather than imposition?

Such a proposal is wholly unacceptable to British doctors. While we find it deeply sad to be compelled to take steps which we abhor, we are left with no alternative other than resignation from the National Health Service, and it may well come that Mrs Castle has only herself to blame. As we told her over and over again, there are no differences between us which cannot be resolved by responsible negotiation—but only if she is willing to abandon a position which rests on nothing but party political dogma and further neither the interests of our patients nor the efficiency of the National Health Service. On our side, we ask only for the rights enjoyed by every other working man in this country, those of being paid for work we do and of employing our time in our spare time as we see fit.

In short, our hospitals are for the practice of medicine and not for ideological experiment. Yours faithfully,
T. R. BEASON, President, Hospital Consultants and Specialists' Association, 141 Lichfield Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

court is hearing the case publicly. But there is a group of people who are sending abroad deliberately distorted information about the trial. This is being done to arrange for pressure from abroad on the course of the proceedings and the verdict.

Knowing this, I was not surprised to see 19 witnesses, who in the first three days of the trial gave evidence fully exposing Mikhail Shtern as having exacted bribes and having swindled his patients. In Mr Sherbourne's letter to our choir singing lauding chants for Shtern. Nor did I find it astonishing that in Sherbourne's letter the medical forensic commission led by Andrei Efimov, chief endocrinologist of the Ukraine, became suddenly transformed into a commission headed by a certain Dr Kaminsky and had "vindicated" Shtern. (The following is the composition of the experts' commission appointed by the court after Professor Kutchuk was challenged: Professor Efimov and Drs Kupersmidt, Olney and Darienko. The neuropathologist Kaminsky had nothing to do with the experts' commission.)

As for Professor Kutchuk, I told about his being challenged without naming him. I consider that to do so, as Mr Sherbourne did in his letter, is tantamount to libel.

At the same time, I cannot fail to express my satisfaction: my opponents are no longer claiming that Shtern is being tried for "children poisoning". Respectfully yours,
BORIS ANTONOV, A.N. Kuchuk, Novosil Prost Agency, Pushkin Square, Moscow, December 23.

Planning delays

From Mr F. M. M. Lewes
Sir, Your recent correspondence on this subject has revealed only one side of the question. Anyone who has been on a Development Committee during the past few years will be well aware of the increase in public concern about planning. The inhabitants of a town will no longer accept, and rightly, skyline breaches by straggles of houses, trees torn down unnecessarily, or the loss of residents of one in five, threatened congeries with picture windows or excrecences on the back of terrace houses overpowering their neighbours' gardens, to name just a few of the things we have recently been asked to allow. Some of these matters are major issues, some are minor, except to the man next door. We welcome public interest—

Indeed we stimulate it by advertising all planning applications. We accept that people feel deeply about these things. One does not encourage delays, but one must realize that the care with which planners and development committees must warch over the face of our towns costs not only money but time. I have seen too many awful suggestions in planning applications over the past eight years to believe that we dare relax. Indeed for the sake of the citizens of our towns both today and in the future, we should tighten our control. Yours etc,
F. M. M. LEWES, Chairman, Exeter City Development Committee, Hope Cottage, 43 Higher Shapter Street, Topham, Exeter, Devon.

Human rights in European law

From Mr Neville March Hunnington

Sir, It is very disturbing to read that the Commission of the European Communities is threatening the German Government as a result of the decision of the German Constitutional Court in the *Internationale Handelsgesellschaft* case. That it should be worried is understandable, for it is a case which has drafted itself against human rights provisions in a national constitution, especially when the Community has not yet developed its own Bill of Rights.

But in fact the judgment of the Constitutional Court is an extremely careful and wise interim solution to an insoluble problem that one had hoped would eventually be transcended through the European Court of Justice—the problem of the conflict between universal validity of Community legislation and the constitutional rights of the citizen. A conflict in which, under the impact of Lord Justice Scarman's far-sighted Hamlyn Lectures, can hardly afford to be complacent.

The Constitutional Court is the best tradition of post-war German justice, has a very close concern with the rights and liberties of the individual and was not prepared to see them surrendered by a mere treaty-ratification. Act of the Federal Parliament—at least, not unless the Community itself were to accept an equivalent duty to protect them.

As there is no written Bill of Rights in the Community treaties, it is only the European Court which can develop such protection through its case law; and in fact it had, within a few days of the German judgment, got so far as implicitly to accept the principle that the rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights are enforceable in the Community legal system.

The trouble is that the European Court has shown, both in that case (Vofsi) and in its earlier decision in *Handelsgesellschaft* itself, a tenderness towards public expediency which does not go far to inspire confidence that it will truly protect the individual. It is that doubt which lies at the very heart of the German judgment (and of that of the court below).

If the European Court could show within the coming months, in a sufficiently strong test case, that it

was prepared if need be to place human rights even above the Community, then the problems would almost certainly dissolve away.

That such protection is necessary is shown by the Commission's attitude to the German judgment and its attempt to belittle the issues raised in it. It was not a trivial matter. The estimated deposit was some £3,000 (DM17,026), not the £300 your reporter was told (this represented some 8,000 tonnes of maize profits remaining unspectored out of the 20,000 tonnes on the licence); there had been a long series of similar cases before the same first instance court, all involving varying degrees of injustice which the European Court dismissed in a rather cavalier way. The deposit system turns an export licence from a mere authorization, even upon conditions, into an onerous burden on the trader if something should go wrong, and such trivial events as a 24-hour delay in customs clearance can involve loss of the whole deposit; and the aim of this system of "fines" is to force traders to carry out their stated export (and import) intentions to the letter so that the Commission's trade statistics and thus its advance predictions will be accurate.

It is easy to imagine the Commission's indignation if member governments attempted to influence the rulings of the European Court of Justice by means of political pressure. It is even more improper in the present case where the Constitutional Court, a supreme tribunal of particularly high standing and in a judgment which can stand comparison with the decisions of the United States Supreme Court, is being politically attacked not for hindering the application of Community laws (it in fact upheld them) but for claiming the right to examine them in case at some time one of them might in fact infringe the fundamental rights of the citizens whom it is its very task to protect. The danger of this attack on the independence of the judiciary can hardly be over-emphasized and it can only be deplored that the Commission has chosen to take such a rash and unprecedented step.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE MARCH HUNNINGTON, Common Market Law Reports, 43 Fleet Street, EC4, December 21.

Housing the homeless

From Mr Christopher Booker and Mr Bennie Gray

Sir, With respect to your editorial on December 17, two things have become supremely clear about the present appalling homelessness crisis. The first is that the only conceivable way the crisis can quickly and practicably be alleviated is to make some equation between the 100,000 who are homeless and the total of anything up to 1,000,000 houses and flats that are lying empty and useless.

The second is that it is no good looking to Britain's local authorities for the solution, since they are themselves almost completely responsible for creating the crisis in the first place. London alone, anything up to half the 100,000 empty properties actually belong to local authorities—who in many cases are making the problem worse by crazy redevelopment schemes, the demolition of flats and houses bought under recent "municipalization" schemes (some in first-class condition) are standing empty, simply because local authorities do not have the resources or determination to get them into use.

This is an almost unbelievable national scandal. You rightly suggest that a part of the solution must be to create a special legal device to enable landlords to allow their

property to be used, in the knowledge that they will be given guaranteed vacant possession when it is actually needed. But when you also suggest that the job of filling empty properties be given to these same astoundingly complacent and inefficient local authorities, we could not differ with you more strongly.

The thought of creating yet another bureaucratic monster, specially to tackle the job of filling empty properties, is indeed depressing. But a Housing Emergency Office (as suggested by Shelter) or an Empty Housing Agency (as we ourselves have proposed) need not be such a monster. All that is required is to find some way of harnessing the abundance of energy and expertise which already exists in the Housing Association movement, and in other local organizations. Given the legal powers and the money, we have confidence that the housing associations (comprising some 10 per cent of the total of empty properties) could solve Britain's homelessness crisis in little more than a year. Make no mistake, the self-esteem of a number of local authorities might have to be punctured in the process. But it can and must be done.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER, BENNIE GRAY, The Observer, 160 Queen Victoria Street, EC4, December 19.

Care of works of art

From Mr Theodore Crombie

Sir, Mr Hugh Leggat's article (December 27) is a timely reminder of the dilatoriness of the present Government in facing up to the immense problems surrounding the housing and conservation of the growing number of works of art in public collections. They cannot claim to have been taken by surprise, for as long ago as 1950 a distinguished curator, Mr Murray Pease, of the Metropolitan Museum, could write in a UNESCO publication that a flourishing public interest in museums and museum policies has emphasized the desirability of broader scope and enlarged public services.

"At the same time current economic trends have conspired to enlarge public collections and to reduce available operating budgets." And this was 25 years ago, long before a moored wealth tax that would clearly transfer a flood of already fast deteriorating works of art to national and local authorities, mostly quite unequipped to house and care for them. I speak from personal experience of hundreds of good paintings in private ownership which owing to existing taxation, inflation and a shortage of restorers are not receiving the attention they deserve.

Yours faithfully,
THEODORE CROMBIE, 133 Old Church Street, SW3, December 27.

Siege of Ladysmith

From Mr Cecil Marcombe

Sir, In his review of Kenneth Griffith's book on the siege of Ladysmith (December 16), Mr Pakenham criticizes Sir George White for defending the town. It is, of course, customary today to denigrate past events, but in this case the views expressed are conflict with the conclusions of those who fought there.

I had many interesting and dispassionate discussions with good friends who were in the Boer commandos that invaded Natal in 1899. They took place more than 50 years ago when I was in the Eastern Transvaal, and when their memories were quite fresh. They held the view that General Joubert was too old to command and that a younger man might have exploited their remarkable mobility by screening

off Ladysmith and pressing on to Durban, the only port in Natal available for landing the British reinforcements then at sea. But they agreed that to press on in that difficult country with Ladysmith blocking the way would have been a formidable task. In short, Ladysmith wrecked their plans.

Those opinions were shared by our friends who had fought with the British in Natal and some letters written by relatives in Pietermaritzburg at that time and recently discovered expressed the view that their survival depended on the heroic defence of Ladysmith. Yours faithfully,
CECIL MARCOMBE, Otterdown, Timberscombe, Minehead, Somerset, December 18.

Public lending right

From Sir Brian Batford

Sir, I do not argue with my old friend Sir Robert Lusty over the need for some form of public lending right, but I do challenge his assertion (December 23) that "no author is at the mercy of his publisher".

With a few notable exceptions I would suggest that authors have always been abjectly treated by publishers, and still are. That is why they have to employ literary agents to negotiate with publishers on their behalf.

There would be far less need for such devices as public lending right if publishers recognized that profits from successful books should be more fairly shared with other members of the book trade—especially authors and booksellers. Yours faithfully,
FRAN BATSFORD, 19 Norfolk Road, NW8.

Cars in city centres

From Mr J. M. Milner

Sir, Congestion, noise, fumes, delay, fuel wastage and car bombs—ought we to impose severe restrictions on the entry of private cars into city centres? Yours faithfully,
J. M. MILNER, City Architect and Planning Officer, City of Cambridge, The Guildhall, Cambridge.

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President Ford axes 5pc surtax from 31-point plan to beat inflation

Fort Collins, Colorado, Dec 29—President Ford has killed his proposal for a 5 per cent surtax included in a 31-point economic programme sent to Congress last October, administration sources said.

The President, now on a holiday here, reached his decision because of the changed economic situation, which finds recession worsening more quickly than expected.

Congress had opposed the surtax, which would have paid or a \$4,000 (about £1,700) programme enacted recently to provide public service jobs and improved unemployment compensation.

Sources said the recession had become so severe the President, or a tax increase by reducing purchasing power would cause further damage to the economy.

It would have been paid by utilities earning \$15,000 or more a year, and individuals earning \$5,000 a year.

The President's decision means the cost of anti-recession programmes will increase the federal deficit—already projected unofficially as high as \$20,000 million for this year.

Mr Ford is to announce a new economic programme when he appears before Congress in mid-January to deliver his State of the Union address.

After the President held an all-day meeting with his economic advisers here yesterday, Mr White House spokesman Mr

New Soviet outburst on US Trade Reform Bill

From Edmund Stevens
Moscow, Dec 29

America's Trade Reform Bill, linking most-favoured-nation treatment for the Soviet Union with liberalization of its emigration policy, continues to rattle.

Mr Boris Strelnikov, Pravda Washington correspondent, says that the Bill violates both the letter and spirit of the Soviet-American agreement on trade and credits signed at the 1972 Moscow summit.

He gives a warning that "such efforts at gross interference in Soviet internal affairs" could have repercussions.

At the same time Mr Strelnikov reports that publication of the Bill's provisions on emigration and of the letter from Mr Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, to the same effect made a big impression in the United States.

He says the Soviet position is being misinterpreted by the American press.

By contrast, the publication was welcomed, he said, by Americans who held that Soviet-American relations, especially in trade matters, should be based on equality and non-interference in each other's affairs.

Mr Strelnikov points out that though the two nations reached accord on eliminating discriminatory trade restrictions in 1972, the Soviet Union on the agreement was held up more than 20 months. During this time, he adds, top American businessmen and financiers have been urging Congress to trade with the Soviet Union would guarantee stability and assure jobs.

He quotes Mr Norris, president of Data Corporation, who told the Senate sub-committee on finance that trade with the Soviet Union could open up tremendous opportunities in the next 20 years.

Mr Daniel Goldy, the financier of Houston, Texas, is quoted as acquiescing to a National Association of Manufacturers poll that 83 per cent of American businessmen favoured expanding trade with Soviet Russia; only 11 per cent were opposed, while 6 per cent were undecided.

The Pravda correspondent also reports that Senator Humphrey challenged members of Congress who sought to restrict credits to the Soviet Union to name a single instance where the Russians had reneged on their obligations.

Mr Strelnikov says: "The debate in Congress on the Trade Bill and extension of the franchise of the Export-Import Bank has developed into a struggle for those who call for implementing the agreement reached at the Moscow summit and those who, from the outset, sought to prevent normalization of economic ties between the two countries."

The sentiments of Pravda's Washington correspondent, who is doubtless fully shared, not only by its editors but by the Kremlin leadership, reflect a deep resentment of having been double-crossed somehow.

At the same time they are keeping their fingers crossed and their options open in the knowledge that the Bill passed by Congress requires the presidential signature to become law, and that Mr Ford will have wide powers of discretion, presumably, in the implementation.

It will be up to him to extend or withhold most-favoured-nation status.

Further, it is pointed out that while the US have placed sufficient funds in Western markets to build a \$25,000 million facility on the lines outlined by Dr Kissinger, in all probability they would not be willing to contribute anything like so much to the IMF, irrespective of the yields offered to an IMF controlled facility.

These arguments, senior American officials now contend, are being widely accepted in such capitals as Bonn, Paris and Tokyo. One unanswered question, however, is how countries not in the group of major or who need far more than can be obtained from the Kissinger facility, are to finance their deficits.

The Americans now take the view that in the first instance part of this problem can be solved by urging the IMF to use to the full its existing lendable resources. Treasury officials say such resources total \$12,000 million in 1973, \$14,000 million in 1974, and could be even larger in later years through increases in the quotas of IMF members.

Finally, for developing countries unable to pay commercial rates to finance their deficits, the Americans agree there should be a continuation and some expansion of the present IMF facility.

The full debate on those issues will come to the bill at a series of major ministerial meetings in Washington next month.

Mr A. W. Suddaby, president of the BTF, underlined the serious nature of the industry's difficulties in a message published in the latest edition of *Trawling Times*, the federation's newspaper.

He said: "There is no disguising the fact that the prospect for the coming year is the bleakest we have ever faced and our industry is now entering an era of great change."

"We are going to fight on behalf of the whole nation for the future of the British trawling industry."

"Beyond our immediate financial problems, even bigger political problems are looming, with the almost certain advent of 200-mile fishing limits and the restrictions which must inevitably follow."

Leaders of the federation have suggested that a scheme be introduced for beef, where the Government has in effect underwritten the minimum price.

Without more remunerative prices the trawlermen argue, there must be a sharp reduction in the number of British fishing vessels in operation. This, it is

claimed, would seriously weaken the United Kingdom's bargaining position in negotiations over territorial limits and international quota levels.

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Japan's economic planners predict that real domestic growth will improve 4.3 pc next year

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Dec 29

As the Japanese look back on the past 12 months, which saw the country's booming economy crash to an estimated growth rate of minus 2 per cent, the nation was given some hope this weekend that the New Year might prove more auspicious.

Mr Takeo Fukuda, deputy prime minister, told the cabinet that Japan's growth rate will begin to pick up within the next six months.

The Japanese saw their balance of payments position move out of the red for the third consecutive month, according to the latest official statistics for November.

Mr Fukuda, who is in charge of the economic planning agency, was submitting a report on Japan's economic future. He predicted the growth rate during the coming fiscal year would rise to 15.5 per cent in nominal terms or 4.3 per cent in real terms.

He pointed out the report was based on the assumption that oil imports during the next year would remain at the same level of the 288 million kilolitres acquired in 1973 and that consumption would remain at 259 million kilolitres.

The government will continue to maintain a tight money policy as its chief weapon against inflation. Setting out the government's long-term objectives, the report suggested the government should introduce other fiscal measures to keep the rate of inflation below 10 per cent by the end of the coming fiscal year.

Industries which have been hit particularly hard by the current recession will be given special assistance and consideration.

As a result the problems of unemployment—nearly a million are expected to be "obsolescent" before the end of the current fiscal year—would improve marginally by 0.4 per cent during the next fiscal year, Mr Fukuda said.

The report claims the sluggish rate of personal consumption, a key factor behind the slump in Japan's growth rate, will improve by 18.6 per cent in real terms during the next fiscal year.

Investments in private housing, industrial plants and equipment will pick up after April, the report adds.

The coming year should also see Japan's trade with the rest of the world surplus of \$5,200m (about £2,250m) during the next financial year, it says.

Future exports will amount to \$67,000m and imports to \$61,800m during the period. Japan's current account will run at a deficit of \$1,700m because of the weak position in invisible trade such as tourism and insurance, the report predicts.

In the meantime Mr Toshio Komoto, Japan's Minister of Trade and Industry, revealed that the government would embark upon a five-year plan during the coming fiscal year to build up the country's reserve stocks of oil. Under Mr Komoto's plan, stated by Mr Y. Nakasone, his predecessor, Japan will increase its oil reserves from a 60 to a 90-day supply.

Mr Komoto's ministry will seek a budget appropriation of \$52m from the general account and another \$253m from the fiscal loan and investment account next year to initiate the plan.

Peter Hill writes: Huge production cutbacks are being planned for the first two months of next year by Japan's textile spinners. The reductions in output, already being implemented, arise from the recession in the textile industry in Japan which is also affecting other countries.

Japan's Fair Trade Commission has approved cartel arrangements for the two months ending in February, following requests from the Japan Spinners and Japan Wool Spinners Associations, which had sought uniform production cutbacks for a six-month period.

The 163 members of the associations will cut out 35 per cent of all their spindles for the two month period and introduce several full day holidays which will reduce average production of cotton and synthetic yarns by 37.8 per cent and worsted yarns by 40 per cent.

The Fair Trade Commission has rejected a request from the industry that the cartel arrangements should extend to a freeze on inventory levels and imposition of coordinated restrictions on domestic shipments.

It noted that inventories of cotton yarn in Japan had risen by 26,000 metric tons by the end of October from 8,000 tons at the end of January. Wool stocks had risen from 20,000 tons at the end of January to 35,000 tons by August.

Demand for yarn, according to the FTC, was likely to rise again in the near future and it did not plan to approve any further extension to the two-month production cartel.

IBA representatives will interview the contenders for Wolverhampton on January 7, Ipswich on January 14 and Belfast on January 21. The timetable allows only a few weeks after the final date for applications to be evaluated before the interviews.

Despite lower than anticipated advertising bookings and higher establishment costs met by London Broadcasting and Capital Radio, the two London pioneer stations, the Independent Broadcasting Corporation and Capital Radio, have been more than one contender for the contract.

Mr John Whitney, managing director of Capital Radio, who is looking for extra contributions from shareholders to compensate for substantial over-spending in the inaugural year, says there are plenty of offers of funds.

Capital has closed its new room and from the beginning of next year will rely solely on the LBC originated Independent Radio News service. The closures created a saving of more than £60,000 a year.

Extra funds are also needed to replace a change from Capital's current temporary wavelength to a new and permanent place on the radio dial next year. Several major outside concerns are understood to be interested in providing the additional finance, including publishers Morgan-Grampian, which was part of an unsuccessful consortium competing for the franchise in London before Capital's appointment.

Talks with interested shareholders are in progress and according to Mr Whitney a decision is expected within a few weeks. Initial shareholders in Capital include Dominant with 32.5 per cent, Local News of London with 15 per cent, Rediffusion with 15 per cent, Evening Standard with 11 per cent and The Observer with 8.5 per cent. It is not yet known whether all the extra funds now needed will come from these.

Mr Foster said it would be a tragedy if hard-won building skills were allowed to be depleted through a falling workload at home.

He should therefore be glad to hear from any firm interested in transferring some of its resources and capacities to countries where building work is going ahead," he said. "In this way, the opportunities for our industry to contribute to Britain's export drive are considerable."

W. Greenwell and Co, the City stockbroker firm, says the Bank of England is pursuing conflicting financial policies.

In its monthly monetary bulletin, Greenwell says: "It is ironic that while the right hand of the Bank of England is working energetically to shore up the present financial system, the left hand of the Bank of England is contributing to the continuation of the financial policies."

If the money supply continued to contract in real terms at the present rate, the fall in the stock and property markets would continue, the report goes on. But for a rescue operation organized by the Bank of England, a financial crash of 1929 dimensions would have occurred by now.—AP-Dow Jones.

Chile to denationalize 12 state-owned banks

Santiago, Dec 29—Chile's military government is to sell 12 state-owned banks to private investors. It will also transfer shares held by the state in six other banks to private hands, and allow foreign banks to operate again, according to an official decree.

The bank shares will be sold gradually through the stock market at an early date.—Reuters.

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Lending rate 11½ pc
The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is unchanged this week at 11½ per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill tender: Applications 2,525,000,000, Allotted 2,525,000,000, Bids at 277.233, Received 277.233, Prev. wk 277.233, Received 277.233, Average rate 277.233, Received 277.233, Next Fri 277.233, Received 277.233

Private steel project for joint iron ore plant

By Peter Hill

Joint investment in a direct reduction plant to provide iron for steelmaking will be considered shortly by Britain's private sector steel producers.

In June plans were announced by a Scottish consortium to build a £29m direct reduction plant at Hunterston, Ayrshire, with a production capacity of 800,000 tonnes. It is scheduled to be operational by 1977.

The British Steel Corporation, which is involved in the construction of a deep water facility for iron ore at Hunterston, announced in October that it had bought the site, 1,000 acres of land at Hunterston. It is also planning two direct reduction plants there together with an electric arc furnace involving an investment of more than £50m.

The BSC has indicated to BISPA that it would be willing to consider some form of co-operation with the private sector in the provision of directly reduced iron and supplies from the planned BSC facility. This is among the options considered by the BISPA companies. There is also the possibility of some form of international collaboration.

The increased interest in direct reduction has been heightened by the inability of the BSC to meet demand over the past year and the shortage of scrap.

The companies concerned have engaged Atkins Planning dealing with the local location and raw material source. Their report is expected to be considered early next year and the

Direct reduction of iron ore provides pellets which are an ideal substitute for prime quality scrap for special steel-makers. A number of plants are already in operation in Europe and the United States and other countries, but none is in operation in the United Kingdom.

BISPA has received an interim report from outside consultants which indicated that a project would be practicable, already a number of its members have since formed a working party to examine the economic and logistic factors involved in setting up such a plant.

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Panel to advise Chamber of Commerce

By Malcolm Brown

An economic panel to advise the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the whole field of economic and industrial policy has been set up.

In a statement, the chamber said that London was still Britain's leading industrial centre, but its manufacturing companies needed more encouragement and a "better hearing".

The panel, which will be chaired by Mr F. H. Tate, vice-chairman of Tate & Lyle, will examine such matters as industrial finance and the effects of taxation on small companies.

A spokesman said last night that the chamber would be trying to act as an additional bridge between the City and industry. It also wanted to ventilate the problems of industry in London and the South East.

Early next year the chamber is publishing a regular "trend survey", based on the similar operation undertaken by the German chambers of commerce. The first, to be published on January 2, will deal with industry's attitude to the recent Budget.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

World markets and economic prospects

There was a strong consistency in the performance of leading stock markets in 1974, typified by an average fall of around 30 per cent in North America, Europe and Australia. The much sharper fall of 54 per cent in London (a drop exceeded only in Hongkong) tells its own story of Britain's economic prospects in 1975. Brazil apart, Frankfurt was the only market to escape an overall fall in 1974, which points to the underlying resilience of the German economy. Likewise Johannesburg's relatively modest fall of 13 per cent over the year reflects the basic strength of the South African economy. Most markets, however, enter 1975 overhung by fears of continuing high inflation, low growth, declining world trade and continued high oil prices.

Wall Street
Wall Street displayed marked resilience during 1974 in the face of Watergate and the international energy and monetary crises. However, the market enters 1975 heavily overhung by fears of yet another Middle East crisis. The oil issue dominated sentiment at the start of last year but the ending of the Arab oil cutback in the spring had already been discounted and brought little relief to the market.

As the Prime Minister moved up to a peak of around 12 per cent by mid-year the Dow Jones dipped. Then heavy rains, followed by drought, brought fears of high food prices and reduced consumer spending. Wall Street looked poised for a takeoff for the brief period when it appeared that former President Nixon might survive Watergate, though this brief rally petered out on his resignation. His successor's anti-inflationary package in October produced another rally though institutions again took advantage of it to offload stock into the market as in previous 1974 rallies.

Johannesburg
Johannesburg held up better than most other stock markets in 1974, largely because of the underlying resilience of the South African economy. The impact of the energy crisis was attenuated by the fact that 70 per cent of the energy base is supplied by coal.

Another principal supporting factor was the rise in the gold price during the year, from \$112 an ounce in around the \$190 level. News at the end of the year of the Franco-American agreement to value official holdings of gold at current prices saw the market higher too.

The big factor, however, behind a 25 per cent rise in the RDM Index between October and December was the progress towards a settlement between Rhodesia and its black African neighbours.

Toronto
Toronto broadly followed the profile of Wall Street last year—downward, though with a few brief technical rallies. Canadian stock markets had their own worries to contend with, however, not the least being the rise in the Prime Rate from 9½ per cent in the first quarter to a peak of 11½ per cent in the third.

Prime Minister Trudeau's suggestion that he might limit oil exports to the United States brought fears of retaliation over the Auto Pact.

Like that in the United States, Canadian industry is now diagnosed to be in a "classical inventory recession" and whether profits can hold up in the face

of a fall in consumer spending is the question overhanging the Canadian stock markets in 1975. **Toronto Stock Exchange Industrial Index.** 1974 Opening level 210; closing 154. Fall 26.5 per cent. High (low) 229 (150).

Sydney
Selling of Australian equities by British institutions was one of the factors behind the fall in the Sydney stock markets during 1974. However, high interest rates, a squeeze on the money supply and the general malaise of capitalism were important contributory factors.

High inflation—running in the final quarter at an annual rate of over 20 per cent—has helped depress equity sentiment too, while high interest rates tended to divert savings into the fixed interest sector.

Generally the reduced volume of foreign investment in Australia on fears of a less friendly climate for business there has been bad for the stock markets.

Sydney All Ordinaries Index. 1974 Opening level 435; closing 302. Fall 30.5 per cent. High (low) 536 (259).

Hongkong
The slowdown in world trade has been particularly critical for the international trading

the prospects for corporate margins and liquidity in 1975 are not good. **Tokyo Dow Jones Index.** 1974 Opening level 4300; closing 3880. Fall 10 per cent. High (low) 4800 (3350).

Amsterdam
Ironically the internationalism which Amsterdam boasts among European stock markets was one of the causes of its relatively sharp downfall during 1974. Wall Street selling of stocks like Royal Dutch and Unilever had strong repercussions in Amsterdam while the remaining two of the Dutch big-four international companies—Philips and AKZO—were both heavily sold because of the declining fortunes of the consumer durables and textiles sectors respectively.

Capital International Index. 1974 Opening level 75.3; closing 52.8. Fall 30 per cent. High (low) 77 (53.4).

Frankfurt
Frankfurt was alone among European stock markets in ending 1974 around the same level at the start of the year. The market started the year in the doldrums as the full potential impact of the oil crisis on an economy some 75 per cent oil-dependent was appreciated. However, the trend of heavy

companies in the Far East—a factor which helped bring about heavy falls in the Singapore as well as Hongkong stock exchange during 1974.

In May the markets in both Hongkong and Singapore rallied quite sharply when the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank once again began accepting equities as collateral for loans. However, the tightening of the money supply in Hongkong, together with the Chinese reversion to their predilection for holding gold, has been a heavy depressant on the stock market. The Hang Seng Index peaked at 1770 in March 1973.

Hang Seng Index. 1974 Opening level 433; closing 156. Fall 64 per cent. High (low) 470 (150).

Tokyo
The Tokyo stock market has reflected the general bearishness over Japan's heavy dependence on high-cost oil imports. June saw a rally in the Tokyo market in the expectation of an easing in the official tight money policy. However, this did not materialize and the market came back again in the final quarter of 1974.

Failure by the Liberal Democratic Party to get its expected majority of seats in the July elections was also bad for market sentiment. Inflation has been pulled back from the starting level of 37 per cent (compared with a year previously) reached early in the year to nearer 20 per cent. However, the spring wage negotiations are linked to inflation and unless the Japanese government can get the rate down further

general manager (planning) will be a general manager on the domestic banking side. Mr. K. B. Cox, group treasurer, is to be general manager (treasurer) and Mr. J. A. Brooks, manager of Threadneedle St branch, London, becomes general manager (computer operations). Mr. W. S. Whelan, deputy chief inspector, Midland branch, has been appointed chief inspector from January 1 in succession to Mr. P. O. Chambers, who is retiring. Mr. B. L. Goldthorpe, manager of Midland Bank's Market Place, Sheffield branch, becomes an assistant general manager (planning) from February 1, 1975.

Mr. John E. Porta has been appointed managing director of Continental Illinois Ltd. He succeeds Mr. Robert D. Siff, who has resigned.

Mr. John G. Knights has left the partnership of Folkard and Hayward and is joining the partnership of Walker Son and Packman.

Mr. J. H. Howatt and Mr. N. L. Crago have been appointed respectively chairman and managing director of ERP International, the operating subsidiary in Bayfine Recruitment's ERP Group.

Mr. N. Bryce-Smith joins the board of Bradstock, Elton & Thompson.

Mr. David Firnberg has been made a director of the National Computing Centre.

Mr. David Nicol has become a director of Spicers.

Mr. H. O. Thomas joins Kasuga Sales.

Mr. Jack Bushnell has become managing director, European operations of Autotense Equipment Inc.

Three new directors named by BMW Concessionaires are: Mr

Arab infiltration into Hongkong trade takes firmer root

Hongkong, Dec. 29.
The Arabs are strengthening trade and financial links with Hongkong, it is reported here. Bilateral trade between the Arab countries and Hongkong is expected to reach \$HK1,500m this year, nearly 80 per cent more than the 1973 total of \$HK840m.

Last year direct exports from the colony reached \$HK300m and re-exports \$HK120m. In return the Arab States sold \$HK120m worth of goods to the colony.

This trade is expected to continue to increase with the balance in Hongkong's favour. Generally, the Arabs buy all kinds of locally produced goods—toys, clothes, watches and electronic goods. In return, Hongkong buys petroleum products and raw cotton.

Four months ago, the Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit Commerce International, which is 72.5 per cent Arab-controlled, announced the opening of a finance company here, BECI Finance International, which has an authorized and paid-up capital of \$HK5m. It will provide a channel from Europe and the Middle East for investment in the colony's trade and commerce.

Three weeks later, a consortium of banks for the Middle East and several leading Japanese banks announced the establishment of a finance corporation, Urban-Arab Japanese Finance in the colony.

The \$HK25m investment will finance short, middle and perhaps long-term loans in local and foreign currencies. —Reuters.

French Pickfords' stake
Pickfords International France SA bought 7.6 per cent of the 3.36m franc capital of the Paris-based Pickfords SA (STIP) for nearly 9m francs, the Brokers' Association said in Paris.

The Pickfords purchase was of some 59,000 of STIP's 34,000 shares at 148.65 francs a share. The seller was not named.

STIP was quoted at this price on the over-the-counter section of the Paris Bourse and Pickfords is offering the same price to all sellers of STIP shares until February 10.—Reuters.

Hoechst to buy US plastics group
In a deal involving about \$100m (about £43m), the American Hoechst Corporation plans to take over Foster Grant Co Inc. of Massachusetts. Hoechst will buy 95 per cent of Foster Grant, which at present is 70 per cent owned by United Brands and 5 per cent by the Goodman family, by the end of the year. The remaining 5 per cent will be acquired later.

The capital of Foster Grant, makers of styrol, polystyrol and finished plastic products, is about \$75m with a turnover this year of some \$200m.

Bolands' warning
Dublin-based bankers and millers Bolands, looks to improvement in trading in the current year, but Mr R. J. Murphy, chairman, gives a warning that the cost of financing essential stocks and customers' credit will impose a heavy burden.

Further ahead is the necessity to replace aging assets and funds for this must be created out of retained profits. As known the pre-tax last year fell from \$55,000 to \$195,000 though the dividend was unchanged.

Mr Murphy explains the

Results
TODAY: Interims: Phillips Harris, Negretti & Zambra, and Smith Holdings (White). Finals: First Re-Investment Trust, Quality Knitwear, and R. Smallshaw Knitwear.

THURSDAY: Interims: Smith & Wallis. Finals: Inter European Property Holdings.

FRIDAY: Interims: Somptex.

More share prices
The following companies will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published in Business News:

Commercial and Industrial Danks Gowerston
Wharf Mill Furnishers.

Peter Beaumont, sales; Mr Roy Milton, parts; and Mr Christopher Tennant, marketing.

Mr Lowry D. Maclean has been appointed to the board of its subsidiary, John Crossley and Sons.

Mr J. F. Crittall has been appointed a director of the Eastern director of Ashworth & Stewart. A director of Crittall Windows and chairman of Crittall-Hope Nigeria, Mr Crittall is also on the board of Equity and Law Life Assurance Society and John Carr (Doncaster).

Mr Carl Nisser has been appointed director of corporate affairs, Europe, by the Goodyear International Corporation.

Mr David Edwards and Dr Robin E. Nicholson have been appointed directors of International Nickel.

Mr David Morcom has been made managing director of Bovis Homes Southern. He succeeds Mr Roger Warren. Bovis, who has been made an industrial adviser on construction to the Department of the Environment, Mr Morcom was formerly the managing director of Ashworth & Stewart (Holdings), a Birmingham-based housebuilding company.

Mr John Hacker has become a director and general manager of Bridgewater Estates and its subsidiary, Walker Land Co. Mr Christopher Brunner is made principal surveyor.

Mr T. J. Brewer has been promoted production and engineering director of ICI Fibres division.

Mr Bernard Manton, managing director of MSL Group, has joined the board of the MSL Group.

Mr M. G. M. Haines has resigned as director of Shires Investment. Mr C. W. Hopkins becomes secretary.

Cost efficiency enters US mining

San Manuel, Arizona.
Because American mining companies have traditionally enjoyed a technological edge over potential foreign competitors, they have not had to be concerned with efficiency and cost-cutting. But things are now changing.

"Mine management generally is decades behind other industries," claims Mr Emory Ayers, a New York consultant.

Mining men think of themselves as in mining and not in business.

But in the Arizona hills, where American Smelting & Refining and Kennecott Copper also have operations, the tides of change are running somewhat faster these days. Unlike other industries, miners here

are working off the store of old accumulated practices.

It was not until 1971, for example, that Magna Copper found that a computer could work out the payroll faster and more accurately than six clerks on manual calculators.

For Mr John Goss, the mine superintendent, to plan and deliver the constant grade of ore needed by the concentrator, the computer now is doing overnight what used to take several days, and it also issues instructions.

The new computer-controlled anode casting wheel machines recently developed in Europe and installed at San Manuel this year, measures each anode of molten metal to within about 1½ lb of the 780-lb target. The savings offered by the new

machine are "vast", but they could have been "realized much sooner". —AP—DJ.

EIB loan to Zaire

European Investment Bank, the long-term finance institution of the EEC, has granted a loan of 16.6m units of account (10 million Zaires) to Gemina, a state-controlled group in the Republic of Zaire.

The loan will help to finance mining and industrial investments required in the group's second five-year development plan. Gemina mines important copper reserves in the Shaba region of Zaire, and has already received from the EIB in 1971 a loan of £16m units of account.

By John Woodland

Commodities

Win a 25 oz gold-plated silver bar

Most people enjoy attempting to win something for nothing or at least just the cost of a postage stamp. Here is your chance to start 1975 with a modest profit.

Sterling Commodities, London, based commodity brokers, are offering one 25 oz gold-plated silver bar and five 2 ounce silver bars as prizes in a new competition.

These will be awarded to investors who most accurately predict the fixing price for spot silver to one place of decimals (205.9p on Friday) and the morning fixing price for gold to two places of decimals (£195.00 on Friday afternoon) on January 31, 1975.

The prizes will be awarded to the top six on silver; the gold prediction will only be used in the event of a tie.

Entries to: Sterling Commodities, Piccadilly House, 16-17, Jermyn Street, London, SW1, and they must arrive by or be postmarked January 10.

Procor loss deepens

Rental income of Procor (UK) for the six months to June 30 increased slightly from £222,000 to £237,000, but a pre-tax loss was incurred, up from £22,000 to £30,000. After a tax credit of £29,000 against one of £12,000, the net loss amounts to £41,000 compared with a loss of £10,000.

The board states that this deterioration in trading figures resulted mainly from the heavy increase in interest charges that prevailed during the period. Results of recent acquisitions are not included in the latest figures. The company is a subsidiary of Trans Union Corporation of the United States.

American Brands

American Brands Inc has acquired Marvel Lighting Corporation, Marvel, whose chief plant is in South Carolina, makes incandescent and fluorescent lamps.

This column is rather hopeful at forecasting commodity prices although last year's prediction that copper would at the end of 1974 be £250 to £300 lower than the \$861 recorded on December 28, 1973, was not too bad. And rubber estimated to be 20p to 25p a kilo cheaper than the \$4.50p at that time was in the right direction.

But two forecasts out of 14 are certainly nothing to crow about. Sugar, for instance, was put at below £100 and is now £450, and cocoa estimated at around the £400 mark is now £399.50.

However, nothing ventured nothing gained. So the fixing price of spot silver on January 31 will undoubtedly be 182.5p while gold must come down to \$173.25.

At this time last year there were many warnings of a possible slowdown in many industrial nations' economies but the boom in commodity prices

continued fervently for some months. Currently the position is reversed and many commodities are fully expected to become cheaper over the next three months or so.

But in a year hence most prices in the accompanying table could be quite a lot dearer, with the notable exception of cocoa.


Here is a classic case of high prices reducing consumption and with sugar continuing dear world chocolate usage may well fall further. A return to around £500 a tonne would not be surprising.

Coffee had a disappointing year in price terms with the producers falling in their threat to boost prices.

Most metal values are under pressure with producers desperately seeking measures to give them a higher rating. It may be some time, however, before there is a reversal of the current price trend but it is certain that this will come.

Commodity	Dec 24, 1974	June 28, 1974	High point	Dec 28, 1973	June 28, 1973	Dec 29, 1972
Copper:						
Cash wire bars	£322.50	£384.50	£1,380.00	£361.00	£223.75	£430.75
Three months	£323.75	£391.50	£1,286.50	£363.50	£208.25	£462.50
Silver (LME):						
Cash	198.25p	194.25p	369.0p	139.3p	102.3p	86.25p
Three months	205.9p	206.75p	280.0p	143.6p	105.25p	88.45p
Seven months	215.5p	210.0p	290.5p	148.25p	108.5p	91.1p
Tin:						
Cash (standard)	£1,027.30	£1,575	£4,243	£2,730	£1,806.50	£1,805.50
Three months	£2,992.50	£3,622.50	£4,062.50	£2,730	£1,814	£1,620.50
Lead:						
Cash	£228.25	£226.00	£317.50	£246.50	£189.00	£120.75
Three months	£215.75	£224.50	£324.25	£250.25	£171.575	£132.00
Zinc:						
Cash	£321.50	£489.00	£874	£560.50	£266.00	£160.125
Three months	£313.50	£496.50	£805.75	£570.50	£265.75	£163.125
Rubber:						
Spot	35.00p	31.00p	59.25p	54.50p	32.45p	30.60p
1st cif position	25.75p	31.87p	55.35p	50.35p	31.75p	30.175p
Coffee:						
1st position	£461.75	£512.25	£516.25	£487.50	£407.75	£397.00
2nd position	£470.25	£529.00	£525.75	£499.50	£418.75	£404.25
Cocoa:						
1st position	£839.50	£903.50	£1,117.50	£514.00	£604.25	£319.25
2nd position	£517.75	£730.00	£1,024.50	£534.50	£455.75	£315.75
Sugar:						
Daily price	£430.00	£234.00	£550.00	£152.00	£98.00	£98.00
1st position	£467.00	£332.125	£567.50	£140.25	£92.40	£97.475
2nd position	£445.00	£312.875	£566.50	£132.125	£85.55	£85.45
Wheat (EEC):						
1st position	£61.00	£36.00	£68.00	£64.50	£44.00	£40.70
2nd position	£63.00	£37.25	£71.85	£67.45	£45.85	£42.20
Barley (EEC):						
1st position	£50.60	£33.20	£64.25	£57.60	£39.05	£37.10
2nd position	£63.25	£34.50	£66.65	£60.45	£40.90	£38.20

* Closest middle price. Copper, tin, lead and zinc all a metric ton. Rubber per ton. Silver a troy ounce. Sugar, wheat and barley a long ton. Cocoa a metric ton except for the first position of June, 1973, and December, 1972.



Highlights from the Statement by the Chairman
Sir Alexander Ross

The Year's Results
Consolidated profit after tax for the year was £12,702,000, a decrease of 7.5 per cent compared with 1973. In Australian dollars, the profit showed an increase of 1.5 per cent, the difference being due to exchange rate fluctuations, in particular the devaluations of the Australian and New Zealand dollars in September, 1974. The outcome is regarded as satisfactory considering the very difficult economic conditions that developed, particularly in Australia, as the year progressed.

Dividends
A final dividend of 4.592p per share is recommended and thus the total distribution for the year will be 9.092p per share. Together with the associated U.K. tax credit, this is equivalent to a total gross dividend of 13.57 per cent for the year payable on the capital as increased by the rights issue in April, 1974 (1973—10.5 per cent on the pre-rights issue capital). This payment is in terms of the consent given by H.M. Treasury at the time of the issue.

Australia
The year was a difficult one for the Australian economy with exceptional pressures on the banking industry and an unprecedented liquidity contraction. Deposits with our Trading Bank in Australia decreased by 5 per cent while advances rose by 11 per cent. Savings Bank deposits were marginally down.

In Esanda Limited, our general finance and hire purchase subsidiary, the strong growth evident in the latter part of 1973 continued throughout most of the year and net receivables rose by 49 per cent.

The inflation of costs and prices throughout the economy was translated into a marked increase in operational costs.

New Zealand
The rate of deposit growth slowed markedly while there was a heavy demand for bank credit. Our Trading Bank's deposits increased by NZ\$21 million to NZ\$452 million. Advances rose from NZ\$243 million to NZ\$374 million.

Europe
Good results were achieved despite the difficulties of the times. In dealings in the foreign exchange and currency deposit markets, special emphasis has been on safety.

Outlook
We believe that the current year will be a testing one and that the outcome will depend very largely upon official policies adopted to solve the most serious problems of high inflation and growing unemployment. In the uncertain situation, the Bank faces a considerable challenge to maintain its profitability and, at the same time, its high standard of service. However, I remain as confident as ever in the longer term prospects of Australia and New Zealand.

	1974	1973
Consolidated Profit after tax	£'000	£'000
Cost of Dividends	12,702	13,731
Pence per share	3,338	2,362
(Gross equivalent)	9.092p	7.35p
Earnings per share	(13.57%)	(10.5%)
Total Shareholders' Funds	36.5p	41.7p
Deposits and Other Accounts	116,090	95,787
Advances, etc.	2,611,739	2,823,950
Total Assets	1,674,353	1,554,178
	3,661,119	3,572,204

Copies of the Report and Accounts with full text of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary.



ANZ BANK
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED
71 Cornhill, London EC3V 3PR

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 24. Dealings End Jan 10. § Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 21
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.
 (Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

THE ROYAL MASONIC HOSPITAL

RAVENS COURT PARK, LONDON, W6 0TN

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Governors of the above-named Hospital will be held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, W.C.2, on Wednesday, the 29th day of January, 1975, at 12 noon, for the purpose of:-

- (1) Electing Honorary Officers.
- (2) Electing Members of the Board of Management.
- (3) Receiving and if approved adopting Balance Sheets and Accounts, 30th June, 1974, and Report of the Board of Management.
- (4) Dealing with any other business regularly brought before the Meeting.

By direction of the Board of Management,

G. W. SMART, Secretary.

1st December, 1974.

Grand Patrons, Grand Vice-Patrons, Patrons, Vice-Patrons, Life Governors, Life subscribers and also duly appointed Representatives, being Freemasons, are cordially invited to the Meeting.

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

SUI NORTHERN GAS PIPELINES LTD.

Linepipe Materials Manufacturers

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited invite tenders from manufacturers for supply of the following Linepipe materials in C&F Karachi Pakistan basis:-

Tender Number	Material	Approx. Quantity	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
SN-3019/74	Linepipe	200 Miles	21-2-1975	21-2-1975
SN-3032/74	Plug Valves	145 Nos.	22-2-1975	22-2-1975
SN-3038/74	Gate Valves	1100 Nos.	22-2-1975	22-2-1975
SN-3040/74	Gas Filter	12 Nos.	24-2-1975	24-2-1975
SN-3041/74	30 Steel Bends	81 Nos.	25-2-1975	25-2-1975
SN-3046/74	Inner Wrap	11,500 Rolls	26-2-1975	26-2-1975
SN-3055/74	Gas Turbines	5 to 9	28-2-1975	28-2-1975
	Centrifugal Compressors	5,000 to 3,000 h.p.	28-2-1975	28-2-1975

Interested manufacturers are invited to apply for the Tender documents specifying the Tender Number to the following address:-
The Managing Director,
Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited,
Monro House, Montgomery Road,
P.O. Box No. 55, LAHORE - PAKISTAN.
Final tenders should be submitted to the Company before closing dates mentioned against each tender.

BUSINESS NOTICES

ENR are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before acting on any notice.

STELLA FISHER TODAY

Spend our day interviewing people who make their careers in offices and many leading employers recruit their (good) administrative, secretarial and accountancy staff through Stella Fisher.

round yourself with those who will make a positive contribution to the success of your organization: please ring us, or call personally.

STELLA FISHER BUREAU,
110 Strand, London, W.C.2
01-836 6644

FINESSES FOR SALE

FOR SALE
relate agency located in centre of Paris. Property owned by French government. Insurance, etc. has been in operation for 10 years with a proven profitability. Handover 1st April 1975. Details please to Mr. J. P. R. 01-836 6644.

FLANT AND MACHINERY

WANTED, second hand Caterpillar 350 Bulldozer, P.O. Box 2435, Salford, Wigan.

NOTICE

All Advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

roadcasting

ould you normally jib at a play about Boadicea and all that lot? Note that David kin, playwright most at home in our island past, contributes the first of the nas for the new Churchill's People (BBC1 9.25). Nearer our own time Lysenko his odd genetics gets a dramatization (BBC2 9.25) and there is a little factory with Brian Glover as the nasty foreman (BBC2 10.20). It is prize day for the nt-spotting Opportunity Knocks! (ITV 6.40) and Dave Allen, again a long after Edith Sitwell, further considers our English eccentrics (ITV 8.0).—L.B.

am, Right Charlie. 10.25, languages of Animals: lec by David Attenborough. Out of School. 11.45, by Star Trek. 12.35, pm. 12.40, The Best of out. 1.35, Andy Pandey. Film Postman's Knock with Spike Milligan. 1.45, Solie. 2.10, Skyline Shelley. 3.10, Skyline. 3.45, RAF demonstration. 4.25, Deputy 4.35, Jackdaws. 4.50, Peter. 5.20, Boss Cat. News. Nationwide. Film The Gold Rush (1934) with Charlie Chaplin. 5.45, Spectacular Britain. 11.50-11.55, Gabriel Woolf reads *Thrushes*, by Ted Hughes.

Granada
11.00 am, Thunderbirds. 11.45, Hammy Hamster. 12.00, Nature's Window. 12.30, The Three Men Steps (1935) with Robert Madeleine. 1.30, Carroll's Weather. 1.45, and white.

Variations (BBC): 10.25 am, 1.30-1.50 pm, Today. 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 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